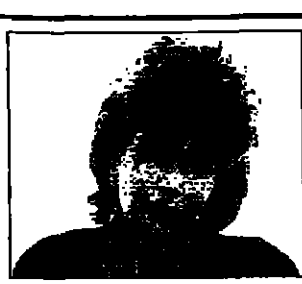






## news

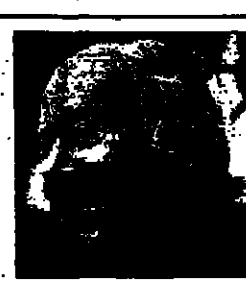
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# Three tourists kidnapped in South Africa

MARY BRAID  
Johannesburg  
and JOJO MOYES  
London

Three tourists were reported to have been kidnapped yesterday, only two hours after flying in to Johannesburg Airport.

Police officials said they feared for the lives of the travellers, who were reported by their minibus driver to have been abducted by five armed men.

Hundreds of extra police were pulled into the city to search for the tourists, who were apparently travelling from Johannesburg International airport to a hotel in Sandton, one of Johannesburg's most affluent suburbs.

The men were booked into the Sandton Sun Hotel under the name D Sutzakassana. It is believed that the booking was made through American Express in London and that Mr Sutzakassana comes from West Sussex, although American Express refused to confirm this.

Janusz Lyczynski, director of Chauffeur Driven Tours, the company which picked up the men, said his driver, Peter Manyekane, had been hijacked on the main M1 motorway in the city.

Mr Manyekane, who said he had taken the tourists to the airport, was ordered out and they were driven off towards Alexandra township. Police found the minibus abandoned. There was no sign of the passengers or their luggage, but no traces of blood were found either.

Mr Manyekane, 44, said the Zulu-speaking armed men pointed guns at him before throwing him out of the vehicle and driving off with the three occupants.

He said the hijack took place just minutes after he had tried to reassure his worried passengers that Johannesburg — dubbed "the crime capital of Africa" — was becoming safer.

"They asked me how it was and I said it was coming along all right — not like before," said Mr Manyekane. He added that

the attack had taken him and his three passengers by surprise. "We did not talk to each other, we were so scared," he said.

Manyekane said he had feared for his life in the attack and had frozen when he was hurled to the ground and robbed of his wallet. "There were many other cars, but no one came to help me," he said. Nearby residents had also been too scared to let him use their telephone to alert the police.

Mr Lyczynski accused the Alexandra police of reacting too slowly and of "asking too many useless questions". He asked why a police helicopter had not been summoned as the vehicle was clearly identifiable, with the registration number painted on the roof. But police spokesman Capt Deon Peens said the flying squad, the highway patrol and local police were scouring Alexandra.

The abduction is bad news for Johannesburg. A 1996 travel guide gives four highlights of any stay in Johannesburg. One of them is "not being mugged".



Marching orders: Saluting at the Sovereign's Parade for the cadets passing out at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst in Surrey yesterday. Photograph: John Lawrence

## Police cleared on arrest death

JOJO MOYES

Police will not face charges over the death of a Nigerian asylum seeker declared by an inquest jury to have been unlawfully killed. The Crown Prosecution Service said last night. Shiji Lapike, 34, died of asphyxiation after being held in a neck-hold by plain-clothes police officers in north London in December 1994.

In January, an inquest jury at

St Pancras Coroner's Court returned the verdict that he had been unlawfully killed. The CPS was to consider the verdict and the two officers remain suspended, pending the results of a Police Complaints Authority inquiry. But last night the CPS said: "There is insufficient evidence to ensure any criminal proceedings in connection with the death."

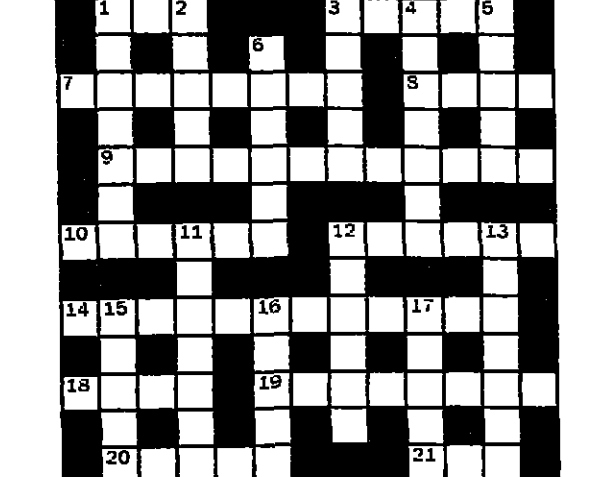
The inquest had heard that

stopped for "acting suspiciously" in Clapton by police officers, Paul Wright and Andrew McCullum. They described "a violent struggle". His death was recorded as "asphyxiation, with a contributory cause of cocaine intoxication."

The decision follows the inquest jury decision that boxing promoter Brian Douglas, 33, fatally injured in a clash with police armed with long-handled batons, died by "misadventure".

### CONCISE CROSSWORD

No. 3062 Saturday 10 August By Spinus



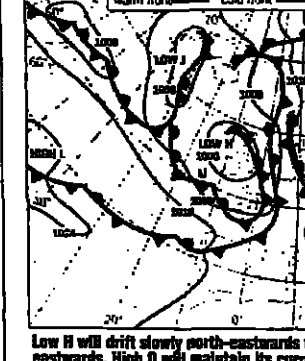
- ACROSS**
- Affirmative vote (3)
  - Berate (5)
  - Glide over frozen water (3-5)
  - Teenage rash (4)
  - Bladed weapons (6,6)
  - Look up to (6)
  - Explanation (6)
  - Containers for papers (7-5)
  - Linear measure (4)
  - Spotted flying beetle (8)
  - Greek island (5)
  - Regret (5)
- DOWN**
- Charged with crime (7)
  - Follow (5)
  - Smooth and shiny (5)
  - Musical toy (7)
  - Ball (5)
  - Farm animals (6)
  - Scott novel (7)
  - Become more distant (6)
  - Notice (7)
  - Medicine (5)
  - Divide by two (5)
  - Staid (5)

**Solution to yesterday's Concise Crossword:**  
ACROSS: 1 Tacks, 2 Pair (Tasmanian), 3 Acetate, 4 Ruler, 5 Kerb, 6 Lamb, 7 Nuts, 8 Sled, 9 DOWNS: 1 Thawing, 2 Chap, 3 Skerries, 4 Pore, 5 Brawl, 6 Hack, 7 Plover, 8 Socket, 9 Clematis, 10 Tabloid, 11 Quince, 12 Sand, 13 Emir.

**Notes**

### Weather forecast

#### NOON FORECAST



Low 11 will drift slowly north-eastwards while Low 1 runs eastwards. High 1 will maintain its current position.

#### WORLD WEATHER

"Hatchings	27-42	Brussels	17-24	Edin
Amberg	10-14	Bremen	20-28	Edin
Amst	14-21	Breslau	20-27	Edin
Amst	14-21	Bucharest	20-27	Edin
Ayr	12-14	Burgundy	17-26	Edin
Bath	11-19	"Buses Area	13-15	Edin
Belfast	18-21	Burgundy	17-26	Edin
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#### Lighting-up times

Location	Lighting-up	Darkening
London	20.32	5.40
Birmingham	20.42	5.50
Manchester	20.47	5.42
Glasgow	20.50	5.34
Cardiff	21.04	5.41
Belfast	21.06	5.53

#### High tides

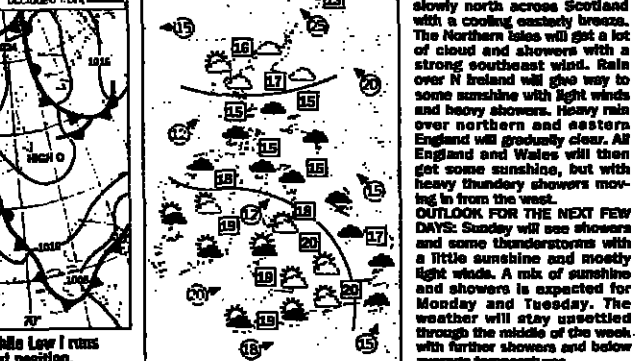
Location	High Tide
London	9.25
Birmingham	9.28
Manchester	9.31
Glasgow	9.34
Cardiff	9.37
Belfast	9.40

#### Out and about with AA Roadwatch

Call 0336 461777 for the latest road news and traffic reports.

### Weather forecast

#### NOON FORECAST



Low 11 will drift slowly north-eastwards while Low 1 runs eastwards. High 1 will maintain its current position.

#### WORLD WEATHER

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#### Lighting-up times

Location	Lighting-up	Darkening
London	20.32	5.40
Birmingham	20.42	5.50
Manchester	20.47	5.42
Glasgow	20.50	5.34
Cardiff	21.04	5.41
Belfast	21.06	5.53

#### High tides

Location	High Tide
London	9.25
Birmingham	9.28
Manchester	9.31
Glasgow	9.34
Cardiff	9.37
Belfast	9.40

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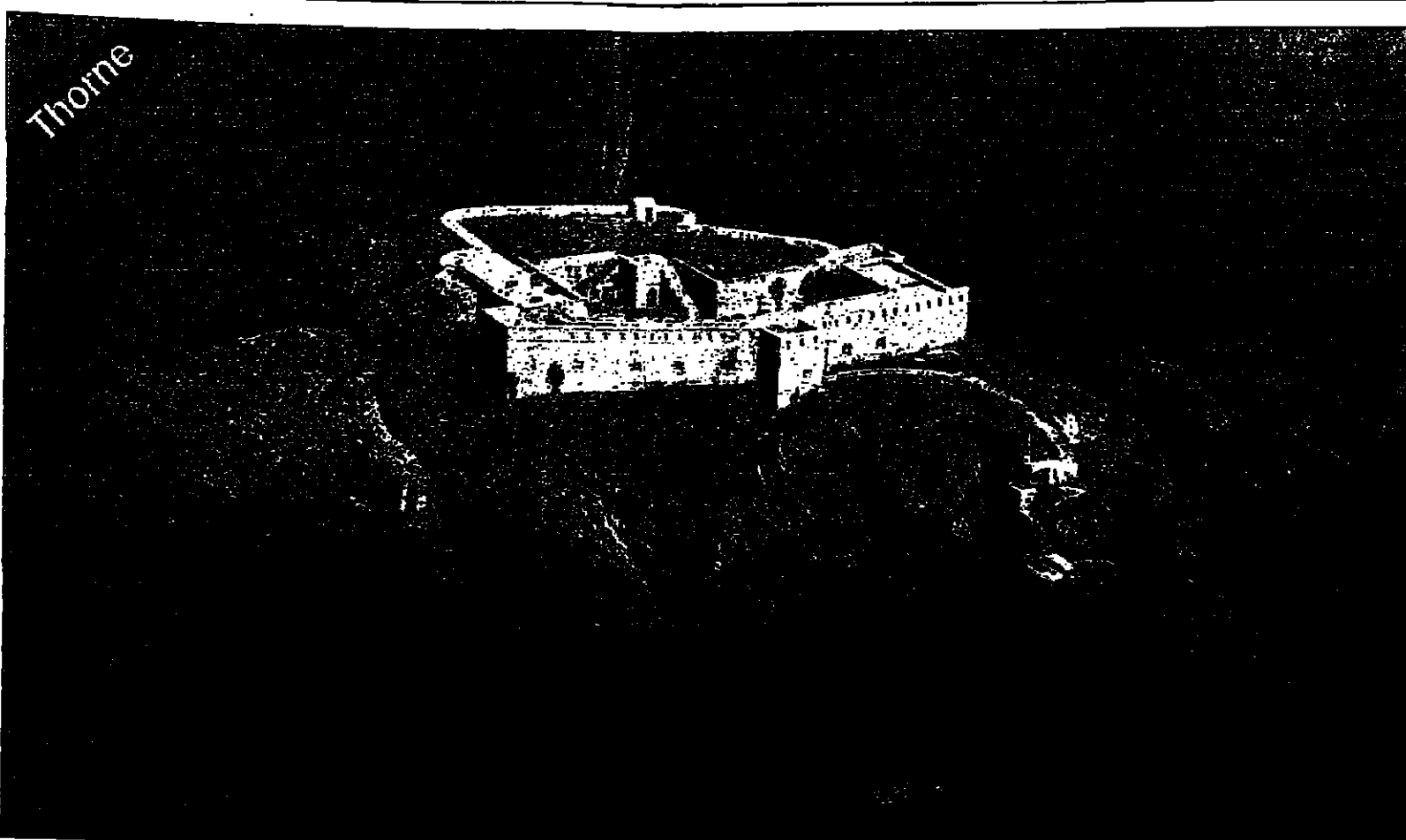
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هكذا من الأصل





## For sale: Des Res island, all amenities, a snip for £1¼m. Suitable for recluses and paradise seekers

### The price of your own kingdom

- 1 Islands in the Sound of Harris, Outer Hebrides:  
Asking price: together, £750,000, Ensay alone (minus house) £500,000  
What you get: 10 islands (approx 800 acres total), or Ensay alone (525 acres)
- 2 Isle of Pabay, off Skye:  
Asking price: £385,000 plus  
What you get: 326 acres, 5-bedroom house with wind and solar power, farm buildings, jetty and harbour, licence to produce stamps
- 3 Island of Eigg, Inner Hebrides:  
Asking price: £2m plus  
What you get: 7,350 acres (380 are woodland), Eigg Lodge (10 bedrooms, 4 bathrooms), 10 other holiday houses and cottages, three stock farms
- 4 Treshnish Isles, off Mull:  
Asking price: £300,000 plus  
What you get: 320 acres among seven larger islands and numerous smaller islets
- 5 Thorne Island, off Pembrokeshire coast, west Wales:  
Asking price: £275,000  
What you get: two acres, 19th century fort converted to hotel (10 bedrooms, 2 bars, outdoor jacuzzi and sauna), landing stage, roof terrace (could be helicopter pad)



MATTHEW BRACE

For those searching for an island paradise in which to hide away and count their fortunes, Scotland is the destination. And to avoid the bad weather and the dark days that put the more remote rocky outcrops out of reach, the time to island-hunt is from May to August.

There are always a few Scottish islands for sale, but this year many more are on the market, prompting fears that the fragile culture of the Western Isles is being yet further eroded. At least 19 islands off Scotland's west coast are up for sale, some going for the same price as a three-bedroom house in London. Nine islands are available in the Inner Hebrides and 10 in the Outer Hebrides.

According to Charles Dudgeon, a partner with Savills estate agents in Edinburgh, normally there are only about two or three for sale in summer. "I find this year's number staggering," he said. "Some can't be worth the candle."

Estate agents, MacDonald MacIver & Co in Stornoway, selling the cluster of 10 Outer Hebridean islands, said they have never had so many on their books before.

One island, Pabay, in particular seems to fit the bill for the buyer who has everything else - "isolation, privacy and accessibility", according to Mr Dudgeon who is selling it for more than £395,000. Although it's a tiny windswept isle favoured in the past by thieves

and cut-throats, Pabay is hot property now, sheltering between the Isle of Skye and the mainland and still offering seclusion and adventure. The price, he adds, includes 326 acres, a farm with wind and solar power, a harbour, a jetty, and a willing boatman who needs just £50 (plus VAT) to take new residents the two miles to the island from Broadford on Skye.

Owning an island has its responsibilities, as well as its costs. Pabay has a licence to produce its own stamps and the island's owners are paid £1,250 a year by the Post Office to collect and deliver their own post over the sea to Skye.

The island of Eigg is also for sale, at £2m. Famous for its violent history and rugged scenery, it has a population of 60, including a doctor, postman and a school-teacher, with whom the owner must consult about island matters.

New owners of the Treshnish Isles, off the west coast of Mull, will have to knuckle under, too. The islands are designated not only a Site of Special Scientific Interest, but a Special Protection Area under the EC Wild Birds Directive.

William Jackson, a partner with Knight Frank estate agents in Edinburgh, said buyers must understand the commitment attached to taking on an island. "You are king but you have to obey the law of the land. You can't take these islands with you. You can't pick them up and carry them back to America." All 10 islands for

sale in the Outer Hebrides are being sold by the Mackenzies. After almost 70 years of ownership, their small fertile islands, in the Sound of Harris between Harris and North Uist, are on the market for £750,000. Ensay, the largest, has three beaches and an old burial ground.

Snapshots of Ensay, Saghay Beg, Saghay More, Suem, Sleicham, Groay, Lingay, Scaraway, Crago and Vatem could soon appear in newspapers' pocket-sized adverts between the more familiar "charming rural cottages" in mid-Wales.

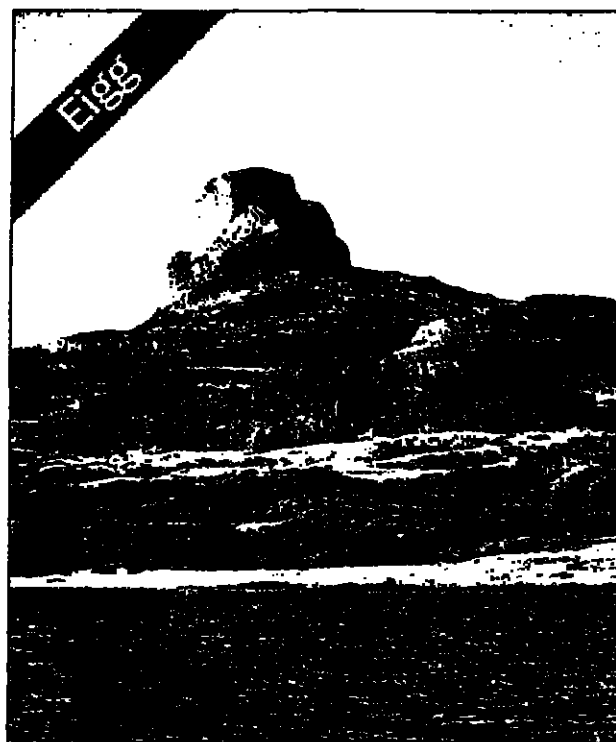
As it happens the only non-Scottish island for sale, is Thorne island off the Pembrokeshire coast in west Wales, with two acres, a landing stage and a 19th-century fort as a 10-bedroom hotel.

In Wales and Scotland, the latest round of island sales worries local inhabitants and community groups. The Scottish Crofters' Union sees it as a threat to the livelihood and

culture of islanders. Fiona Mandeville, a member of the Union, said that though most of the islands for sale are uninhabited, island ownership is a lottery. "There are no constraints on who can buy, but the people here are never in the position to buy one themselves," she said. "They are very much at the mercy of the owners. But the time is coming when there will have to be a change in the land-ownership laws."

Dr James Hunter, a Skye resident and a writer about Highland ownership, said that land was sold and re-sold "with extraordinary rapidity sometimes every two or three years". He said: "Some people who acquire an island have good intentions, they want to get involved, but then they realise how expensive it is. They get fed-up and put it back on the market again."

It is unlikely, though, that these arguments, will go any way to stopping the annual island hunt, now in full spate.



## Road-rage pensioner jailed

A 69-year-old motorist was jailed for 18 months yesterday for stabbing another driver during a road rage row.

Former handyman, James Hopkinson stared straight ahead in the dock as the jury found him guilty unanimously of unlawfully wounding Julian Gott, 45.

Mr Hopkinson stabbed Mr Gott, a surveyor, seven times with a penknife after he followed Mr Hopkinson's Citroën Visa car to a car park.

Mr Gott had been angry when Mr Hopkinson had cut in front of his BMW 325 in the outside lane of Stanningley bypass in Leeds last September.

He said he went after Mr Hopkinson "on the spur of the moment, to give him a mouthful" about his allegedly dangerous driving.

Leeds Crown Court was told that Mr Hopkinson struck Mr Gott on the side of the head and thrust a folding penknife into his stomach.

Mr Gott still has scars on his abdomen and thigh, but has otherwise made a full physical recovery after the attack, which took place in Pudsey railway station car park at 6.55pm on 8 September, 1995.

Mr Gott told how he was bleeding profusely from his wounds, but managed to drive to the Owlcoates shopping centre, 200 yards from the station. Two women trained in first aid at Asda supermarket helped him while "horrified" shoppers looked on.

Judge John Swanson told Mr Hopkinson: "Violence arising from disputes between motorists in cars will normally

result in a prison sentence. When the facts are accompanied by a weapon - as in your case - the sentence must be substantial."

"I take into account your age, health and the fact that another jury has already acquitted you of the far more serious offence of wounding with intent to cause grievous bodily harm."

"Mr Gott acted foolishly. If he had not followed you, this incident would not have happened."

"I do not treat you as a man with a record of violence," added the judge.

Mr Gott lives in Burley-in-Wharfedale, a village in the hills north of Leeds.

Mr Hopkinson, who has three children, lives at Cavendish Square in Pudsey, Leeds, with his wife.

Leeds Crown Court heard how Mr Hopkinson had already served five years for two charges of felonious wounding and burglary in 1956. He was convicted that year at Leeds Assizes Court.

He also had convictions for reckless driving, in 1983 and 1985.

After yesterday's hearing, Detective Sergeant Colin Buck of West Yorkshire police said: "I think it's a just verdict."

"The evidence showed the defendant reacted to the situation in a manner more violent than necessary."

Det Sgt Buck warned all motorists to avoid road rage outbursts if possible. "One driver nearly lost his life. Another lost his liberty. It's better just to drive on and let common sense prevail."

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## I'm digging for victory ...wish you were here

Dear Tony,  
This is just to show that while you're sunning yourself in Geoffrey Robinson's £3m mansion in Tuscany, I'm hard at it, fighting for a Labour victory on the beach at Cleethorpes.  
The weather here is a bit overcast, but the natives are friendly. They lapped up our campaign against "Tory lies", and I handed out bucket-loads of Labour campaign rock and whirly hats.  
You should have seen the press I got this morning for my handling of the Clare Short row. Even the *Guardian* said I'd beaten Peter Mandelson at the spin doctoring.  
On the seafloor, I managed to sidestep questions about Clare's article in the *New Statesman*. I told the press: "Cleethorpes is a key seat and we've got to make sure we win it. That's why I'm here."  
I'm sending out letters to Labour MPs with the "spirit

of '45" pamphlet as we agreed, emphasising the continuity between New Labour and the post-war Attlee government, which ushered in the Welfare State. With your foreword, I'm drawing attention to the five evils, identified in the Beveridge report, of want, ignorance, disease, squalor and idleness, which the Attlee administration set out to tackle.  
So you can see, New Labour is in safe hands while you're away. But I should warn you that there are some storm clouds on the horizon.  
The opinion polls have been as mixed as the weather while you've been away. The *Guardian* ICM poll said our lead had slipped to 12 points, while Gallup in the *Tory Telegraph* said it had slipped to 25 points. Peter Kellner in the *Evening Standard* said our lead over the Tories was probably about 20 points, so there's no room for complacency, as you're constantly telling us.

The resolutions for the TUC conference in September show that the unions are trying to make sure that we commit ourselves to a fixed figure of £426 an hour. Arthur Scargill is also going to be there, banging the drum about scrapping all the Tory trade union legislation. Labour activists are being urged by Labour CND to put forward motions at the Labour Party conference in October calling for the £21bn defence budget to be cut by a third under a Labour government.  
We've shrugged off past conference resolutions by CND supporters, but in the run-up to the election I know you'll want to ensure the Tories don't accuse of being weak on defence. No doubt the press will report it as "Macho Blair faces backlash", but by then, you'll be back. By the way, next week I'm off to America to meet one of my friends in the Democrats. I'll bring you a stick of rock.  
Yours, John



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## Labour fears for privatised rail safety

MICHAEL STREETER

Labour called yesterday for urgent publication of an interim inquiry report into the Watford train crash, amid rising concern that privatising the railways may have reduced safety standards.

The crash, which occurred when a commuter train hit an empty stock train, killing one person and injuring 68 others, was the first involving a passenger train since Railtrack was privatised earlier this year.

Although Labour is anxious not to pre-empt any investigation into the causes of the accident, it fears that the results of two inquiries launched yesterday may not be published until after the general election. This would let the Government off the hook, if underfunding and privatisation are found to be contributory factors.

As inquiries by the Health and Safety Executive's Railway Inspectorate and Railtrack were announced, Labour's transport spokeswoman, Glenda Jackson, said: "Ministers must state clearly how and when the full facts of this incident are to be made public. Given the speculation concerning the possible contribution of privatisation ... it is unacceptable that we may have to wait for over a year before the truth emerges."

The HSE confirmed that the effects of privatisation would be part of their remit.

The Transport Secretary, Sir George Young, rejected suggestions that privatisation had impaired safety.

"There is no evidence that the privatisation process or the restructuring of the railways has in any way diminished their safety record," he said. "On the contrary, the evidence is that the safety record has actually improved."

A key issue highlighted by railways experts was the decision, by the Government, BR and then Railtrack, to shelve plans for an automatic train protection system (ATP) which stops the train if a driver goes through a red light.

Last month the Commons Transport Select Committee described this decision, made before the end of two pilot schemes, as "deeply deplorable". Labour claims ATP's estimated £1bn cost should be set against the more than £2bn spent on rail privatisation.

There was also concern about the state of the West Coast line, on which the crash occurred, with one expert describing it as "sadly neglected". Yesterday there was growing suspicion that the crash of the 17.04 Euston to Milton Keynes may have been caused by one driver going through a red light. Privately, Railtrack has reportedly been reassuring the City that initial indications point to "driver error".

The crucial final moments before the collision will have been recorded on the trains' "black boxes", which will give investigators details of the speeds, drivers' actions, and data on signals and controls. First reports suggested that the empty train may have been travelling at up to 50 mph.

### Worries over effect of sell-off

Is privatisation likely to have been a major factor behind the crash? So far, figures suggest overall safety has not worsened under privatisation and may even have improved. Railtrack, which owns the track and stations, says fixed contracts with maintenance staff have helped put safety concerns on a more formal and thus better level.

Does that mean there are no safety concerns after privatisation?

Far from it: there is a growing anecdotal evidence that contractors doing vital track maintenance are sub-contracting to inexperienced or incompetent staff. The Health and Safety Executive severely criticised Railtrack this year for weaknesses in management and safety systems which could make future travel less safe. Railtrack's own recent figures show that while there were no major injuries last year, the number of small injuries rose by 13 per cent to 171. The company says a number of these were "drink-related", such as passengers falling off platforms.

How much is being invested by Railtrack?

It plans to invest £1bn a year for 10 years, which it calls the biggest concentration of funds ever on infrastructure. However, railway unions and independent

experts say Railtrack spends money half as efficiently as BR. In other words, £1bn in Railtrack money would be £500m in BR money. Wolfson College's railway expert, Bill Bradshaw, has described the West Coast track as "sadly neglected". Railtrack is spending "millions" on it but admits no more than on any other line. Discussions are still going on about raising new cash to upgrade it.

What are the most likely causes of the crash?

A mistake by a driver or a signalling error will be the main focal points of the inquiries. Drivers can sometimes be afflicted by "micro sleep", when through tiredness and repetition they can "miss" a red light. A signal error is more often a result of human error than a fault in the signal system.

Would ATP have helped?

Automatic Train Protection is an expensive system which prevents trains going through red lights and overrides driver error. BR and now Railtrack have rejected it on grounds of cost - up to £1bn. Sub-Channel rail travellers are protected by ATP on the French side but not when the enter Britain. Some independent experts say it is not cost-effective, at £14m per life saved, and more lives would be saved by spending the cash on modern carriages.

هكذا من الاصل



# Join the board and double your money

Company bosses have never had it so good, with six-figure bonuses and incentives galore. **Michael Harrison reports**

Shareholders in the entertainment and music giant Thorn EMI are being urged to vote next week against a bonus scheme that could net one of its directors £3.5m on top of his basic salary.

The revolt comes amid mounting concern over the size of rewards available to company executives under new long-term incentive plans introduced to comply with the Greenbury rules on boardroom pay. In many cases, executives stand to double their basic pay.

The main beneficiary of Thorn EMI's Senior Executive Incentive Plan would be Jim Ffield, the US-based chief executive of the EMI record business, who earned £7.38m last year and is nicknamed "Lucky Jim" in the City.

Under the scheme, executive directors are entitled to bonuses worth up to 180 per cent of their base salary, provided certain financial targets are met. Mr Ffield, who earlier this year signed a record-breaking £8m recording contract with singer Janet Jackson, would have netted £3.46m had the scheme been in operation last year.

Thorn EMI's chairman, Sir Colin Southgate, who earned a basic salary of £506,000 last year, would have received a bonus of £708,000.

The controversial scheme, which has angered leading institutional investors, will be put to shareholders next Friday when they vote on the proposed demerger of Thorn EMI into two separate companies - EMI, which includes the record company and HMV record shops, and Thorn, the television rentals business.

The Pensions Investment Research Consultancy (Pirc) which advises 40 pension funds, with assets of more than £100bn, said it would be urging its clients to vote down the scheme. Alan McDougall, joint managing director of Pirc, said: "The new scheme does not conform to our guidelines as to what is appropriate based on the targets the company has set to trigger these bonuses."

Pirc added that it objected to the way shareholders were being asked to vote on one resolution which sought both to amend the existing executive bonus scheme and introduce the new one.

The recommendations of the Greenbury Committee were designed to stamp out abuse of share option schemes, particularly in the privatised utilities. Scores of executives in the regional water and electricity companies have made fortunes out of share options granted at the time of privatisation which then rocketed in value as the businesses were taken over.

Share options were supposed to have been phased out and replaced by the new long-term incentive plans (L-Tips). But according to a report by the executive pay consultancy Monks Partnership, only 29 of Britain's top 100 companies have scrapped share options.

The study found that 75 of the top 100 had introduced L-Tips. But in many cases these have run into flak because of their generous nature, the un-demanded financial targets set for executives and the complexity of the schemes.

One institutional investor said that the EMI scheme was largely incomprehensible, but from what he could understand, it appeared that "these guys are going to the moon".

United Utilities, the company formed out of the merger of North West Water and Norweb, survived a shareholder rebellion over its new incentive plan a week ago, but only after a third of investors voted against the scheme.

The scheme entitles United Utilities' chairman, Sir Desmond Pitcher, and the chief executive, Brian Staples, to receive bonuses worth 87.5 per cent of their basic salaries. This year, Sir Desmond's basic salary has been increased by £54,500 to £310,000 and Mr Staples' by £65,000 to £300,000.

At Railtrack, the chairman, Bob Horton, stands to double his £125,000 salary under its new L-Tip while directors of National Power can expect long

and short-term bonuses to increase their pay by 50 per cent in return for "solid" performance.

Lord Blyth, chief executive of Boots and one of a handful of British directors paid more than £1m, stands to earn a bonus worth 90 per cent of his basic £470,000 salary.

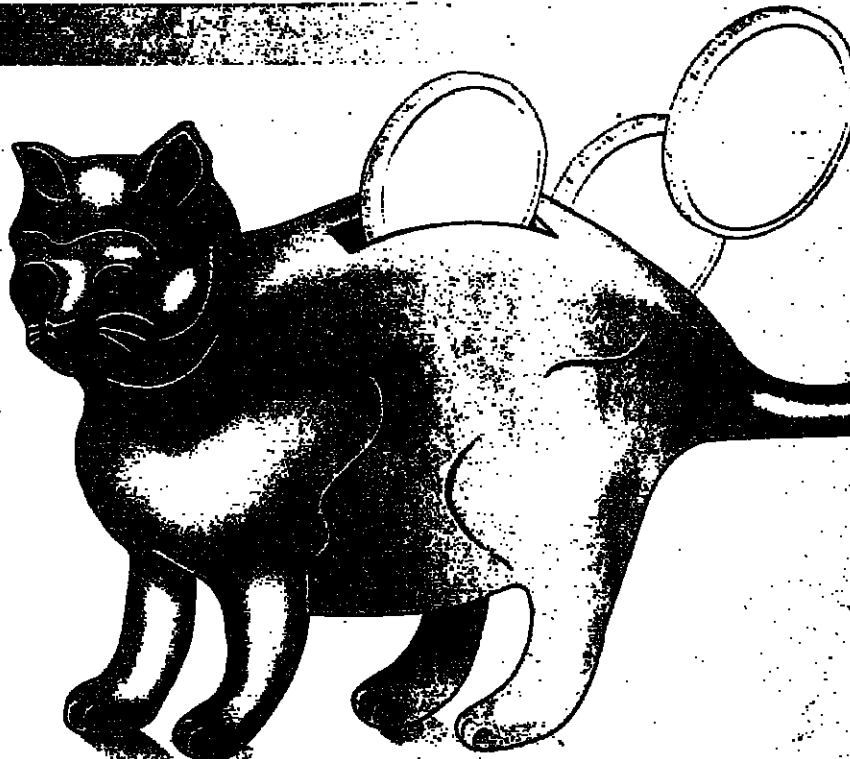
What has unsettled institutional shareholders and outraged small investors is that many of the new incentive schemes come on top of other perks.

The chief executive of British Gas Energy, Roy Gardner, received a "golden hello" of £200,000 to compensate him for leaving GEC and the new chief executive of National Power, Keith Heary, got £100,000 on joining.

At United Utilities, Mr Staples received a one-off bonus of £48,000 last year for the "exceptional burden" of taking over Norweb, lifting his total pay to £380,700.

## How the fat cats get the cream

Company	Short-term bonus	Long-term bonus
Boots	Max 35% of base salary	Up to 90% base salary
BP	Max 70% of base salary	Not disclosed
Grand Metropolitan	Max 50% of base salary	Up to 40% of base salary
Guinness	Min 12.5% of base salary	Up to 50% of base salary
Hyder	Max 40% of base salary	Up to 50% of base salary
ICI	Max 40% of base salary	Up to 40% plus share options up to 4x salary
National Grid	Max 37% base salary	Up to 37% of base salary in shares
National Power	Max 40% of base salary	Max 33% of base salary plus share options
Railtrack	Max 40% of base salary	Max of 100% paid in shares
United Utilities	Max 40% of base salary	Max 87.5% of base salary



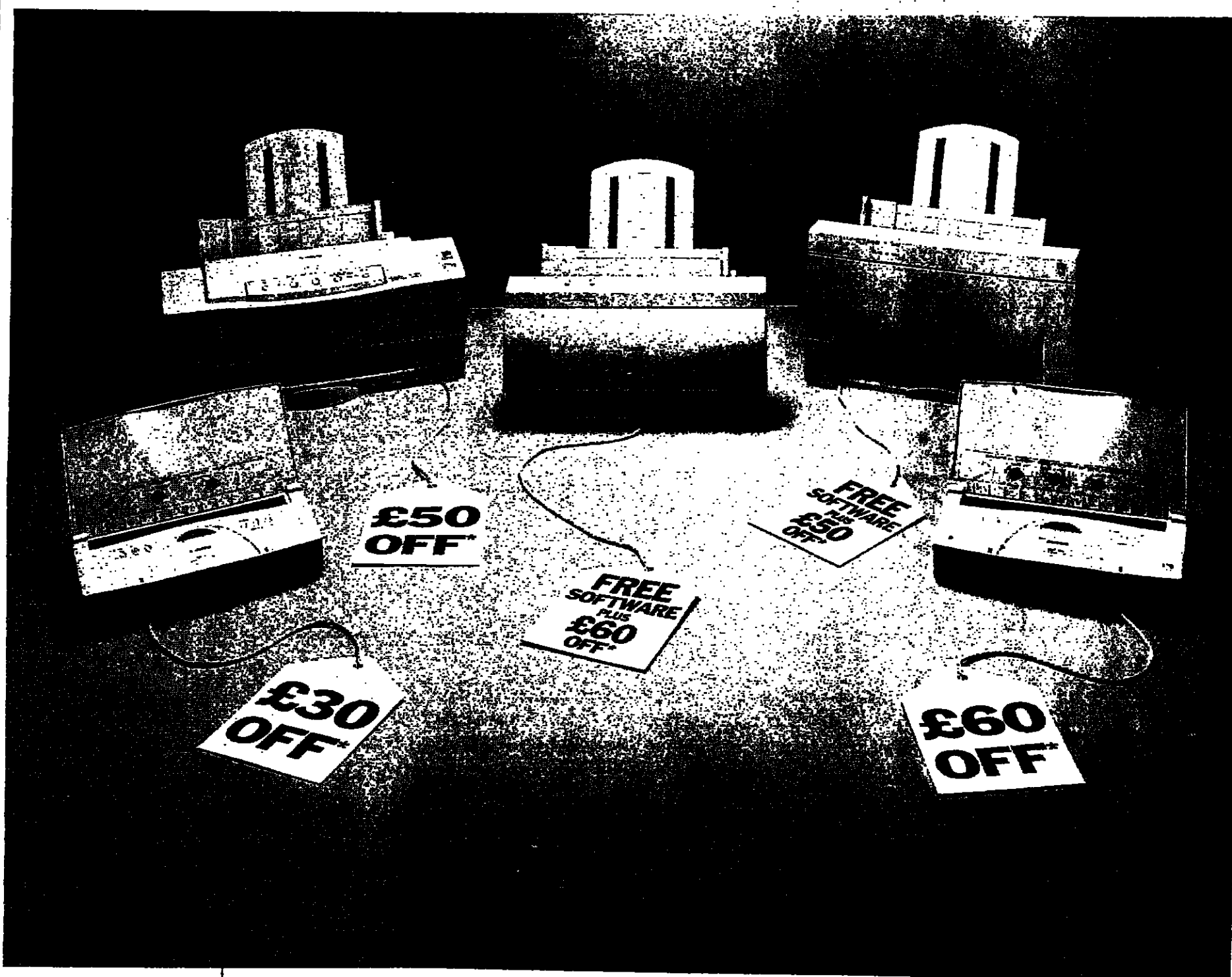
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### Top earners: how much they get



**Sir Desmond Pitcher**, chairman, United Utilities. Age: 61. Pay: £346,000. "King Des", as he is known in the north-west, masterminded the £3bn merger of North West Water and Norweb to create the country's first super-utility. A former chief executive of the Littlewoods Organisation, he is an engineer by training. Current posts include deputy chairman of Everton Football Club and chairman of Merseyside Development Corporation. Well-connected politically, and an occasional adviser to John Major.



**Lord Blyth of Rowington**, chief executive, Boots. Age: 56. Pay: £1.175m. The Government's former chief arms salesman (head of defence sales at the MoD, 1981-85) he joined Boots in 1987. After a disastrous acquisition spree, he is credited with turning the business around. Current posts include chairman of the Prime Minister's advisory panel on the Citizen's Charter and governor of London Business School. Lists skiing, tennis and painting among his recreations.



**Bob Horton**, chairman, Railtrack. Age: 56. Pay: £159,000. Not a big earner by today's standards, but consoled by £1.5m pay-off he got from British Petroleum in 1992. Arrogant, but also charming, he once said: "Because I am blessed by my good brain I tend to get the right answer quicker and more often than most people." Paid for that remark with his job at BP but has since bounced back. Holds four other non-executive directorships but likes to get out into the country when not on Railtrack business.



**James Ffield**, chief executive, EMI Music. Age: 54. Pay: £7.38m. Makes the kind of money earned by the pop stars he has handled, among them Mick Jagger, Janet Jackson, Blur, and the Beatles. Reputedly the highest-paid director of a British company, the Missouri-born businessman joined Thorn EMI in 1988 after a career in the toy, food and video industries. Will get a £12m "golden parachute" if EMI is taken over after it demerges from Thorn next week. Maybe that's why the City nicknames him "Lucky Jim".





Photographs: Science Photo Library/BIPPA

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The death of Sir Frank Whittle has deprived us of a rare talent, writes **Charles Arthur**

Born in Coventry in June, 1907, Sir Frank's origins were solidly British and working class. He was also one of the last survivors from what is often seen as a golden age of British invention.

His revolutionary concept, which put Britain at the forefront of the jet age, arose from his science thesis, written in 1928, when he was a young cadet at RAF Cranwell. He patented the idea of the jet engine in 1930, but found the road to success paved with indifference, and progress repeatedly blocked.

Jet fighter aircraft finally entered service in 1944, but Sir Frank always maintained they could have been used against Hitler years earlier in the Battle of Britain, but for the Government's lack of interest and delays.

The first jet engines did not go into production until 1947, after the Second World War. Sir Frank's plans, meanwhile, went to the US, which used them for its entire post-war aircraft industry. He later bitterly criticised the nationalisation of jet propulsion development, saying it was responsible for Britain losing its world lead in jet engine technology.

Sir Frank was knighted in 1948 and received a reward of £100,000 for his contribution to flight. In the same year, he retired from the RAF, with the rank of Air Commodore, on the grounds of ill-health.

**CHARLES ARTHUR**  
Science Editor

up the Perseid shower weigh about 50 milligrams and measure just 5 millimetres in diameter. They hit the Earth's atmosphere at 133,000 mph where friction causes them to burn up before they reach the planet's surface.

“The intensity is likely to be back to normal this year,” said Professor Mark Bailey, the director of Armagh Observatory. “But you will see them there’s a clear sky, and you have a dark, clear site.”

Observers can watch the meteorites with binoculars, picture them with a camera set for long exposure with high-speed film, or a video camera set to its largest aperture and with the focus at infinity.

The annual Perseid shower has been known since 830 AD. It was known as the "Tears of St Lawrence", after a saint who was burnt at the stake in 257 AD. The intensity of the showers has intensified since 1991 when the parent comet, which follows a fixed, hyperbolic orbit, passed close by the Sun.

Jacqueline Milton, of the Royal Astronomical Society, said: "The peak of the stream can be very concentrated. The Earth can pass through it in an hour or less, with not much activity on either side. It's not totally predictable."

The "meteorites" name is derived from the constellation from which they seem to emanate - Perseus - which can usually be seen low in the north east after sunset. The best time for viewing will probably be between midnight and 2am on Sunday night.

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Edinburgh row: Church figures angered as satirists find new source of humour in Christian beliefs

## Festival's God is game for a laugh

MARIANNE MACDONALD  
Arts Correspondent

To the concern of church leaders, God has been chosen as a prime target for attack at this year's Edinburgh Festival, with headline productions poking fun at God, Jesus Christ and the Bible.

One is the Reduced Shakespeare Company, which has turned its attention from the Bard to the Bible. It is performing a 90-minute show summarising the Bible "from Genesis to Revelation".

Is there members begin their performance, part of the Fringe Festival wearing only fig leaves. Later they don tunics and crowns. A running theme is the squabble over who gets to play God.

The show has already caused controversy in America, where the Right objected to what they saw as heresy. When they performed in Washington, the company received calls from a religious zealot posing as a journalist who attempted to get an "interview" before lambasting staff when his fraud was uncovered.

The actors argue that the production is harmless fun, but the Rev Bill Wallace, convener of the Church of Scotland's board of social responsibility, said yesterday: "Anything which attempts to trivialise faith and particularly the Christian faith in this day and age is deeply regrettable — especially at a time when more people are starting to show an interest in faith."

He would prefer such productions did not take place, he added. "It's pretty poor taste if that's all they can do to get people to watch."

Reed Martin, who stars at the Assembly Rooms in *The Bible: The Complete Word Of God* (abridged) with Austin Tichenor

and Matthew Croke, said of the criticism: "Our normal response is that people are entitled to their opinions. We'd love them to see the show and we don't think they'd think that way if they did — but those people never do."

Mr Wallace is equally concerned about the Irvine Welsh film *The Grass is Greener*, which will get its world premiere on 21 August at the Edinburgh Film Festival. Described as a 36-minute piece of "rock and roll cinema", the film, by the author of the controversial hit *Trainspotting*, depicts God as a washed-up and geriatric drunk.

It tells the story of Bob Coyle, whose life goes to pieces when his girlfriend dumps him, he loses his job and he is dropped by his football team. Things scarcely look up, however, when he bumps into God in his local pub, is changed into a blue-collar worker and finds himself watching his parents having sex from their bedroom wall.

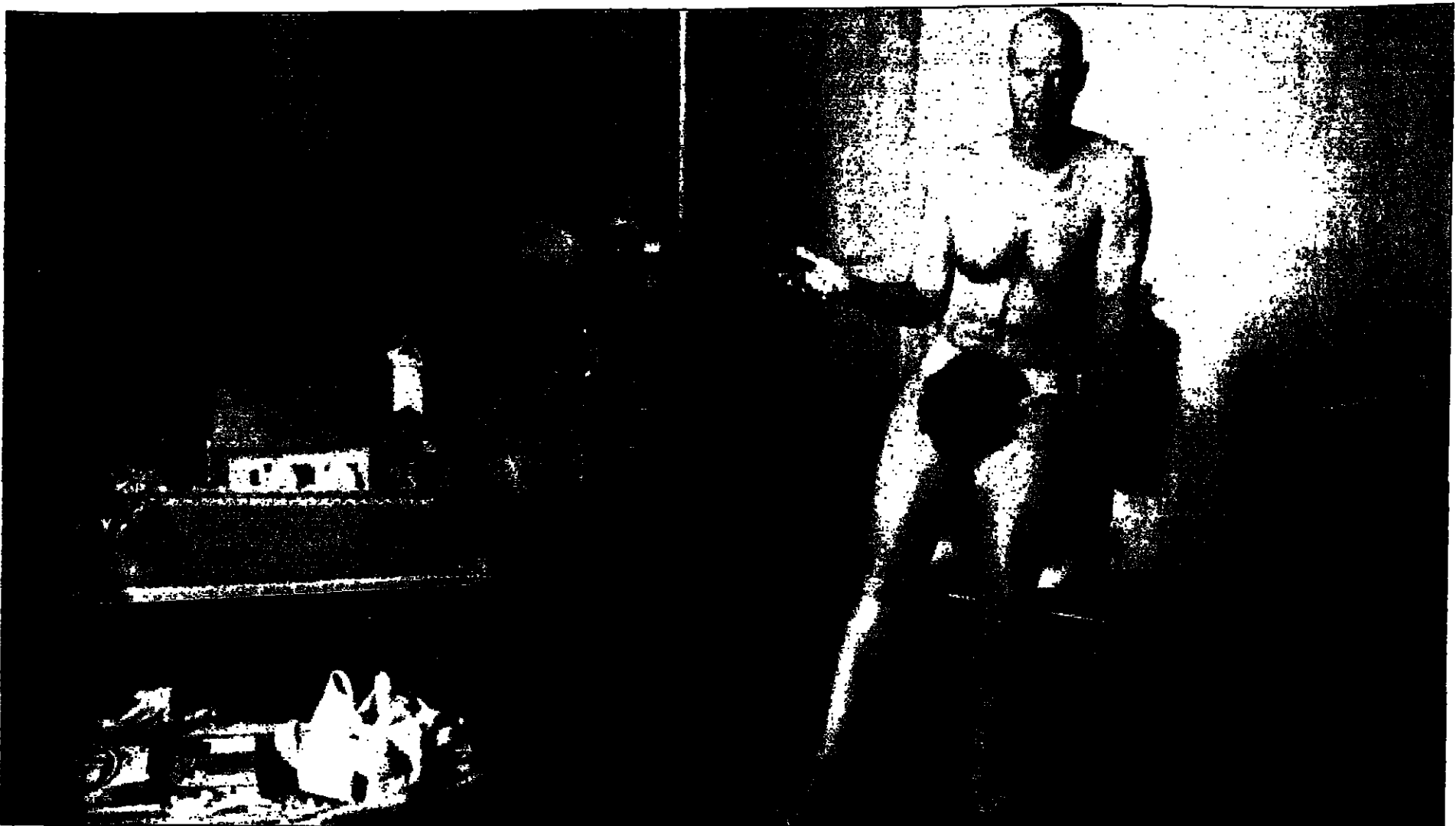
Fans of Welsh's work will find also it on offer in the Fringe Festival in *Headstate*, a revival of his first play. He wrote it in collaboration with the Boilerhouse theatre company, which it describes as "acid-house theatre" — half-play, half-rave.

The 50th Edinburgh Fringe Festival offers 553 productions this year, of which 58 per cent will be premieres.

Performers include Craig Charles, Jools Holland, the Chinese State Circus, Rory McGrath, Jenny Eclair, Jo Brand and Lee Evans.

Running from tomorrow to 31 August, it will also feature the Scottish Ballet, Midge Ure, an exhibition of the late Helen Chadwick's art, and cinema classics such as *The Long Good Friday* and *Reservoir Dogs* making their stage debut.

Weekend, page 3



Short cut: Reed Martin kitted out for the Reduced Shakespeare Company's bible send-up, which races from Genesis to Revelation in 90 minutes

Photograph: Geraint Lewis

## THE FIRST WORK OF ART DESIGNED BY AN ACCOUNTANT.



## Public divided over futuristic V&A extension

MARIANNE MACDONALD

The public is bitterly divided over whether the futuristic extension to the Victoria and Albert Museum should go ahead, the museum's own survey has discovered.

The design by Polish architect Daniel Libeskind who beat competition from Sir Norman Foster and Zaha Hadid for the £42m project, provoked outrage and impassioned support when it was unveiled in May.

To be sited between the 1860s baroque structure by Henry Cole and Aston Webb's 1909 dome, the extension would be covered in tiles fading to white towards the top and would consist of conflicting planes.

Giles Worsley, editor of *Perspectives On Architecture*, called the building "extremely hideous and inappropriate". Sir Hugh Leggatt, secretary of Heritage in Danger, deemed it "forbidding and oppressive".

But Owen Luder, president of the Royal Institute of British Architects, said it had the potential to be a landmark.

Dr Alan Borg, the V&A's director, has observed that the building, which will house an education centre, café, restaurant, galleries, an observation point and exhibition space, would become a national icon.

But it seems much of the public would rather it didn't. Of more than 1,026 people who commented during the six-week

exhibition showing how the Boilerhouse building would look, 48 per cent said they were against the design. A further 40 per cent said they were in favour and 11 per cent were in support, but with reservations.

The visitors' book recorded comments such as a "total carbuncle", a "big mistake", a "brave yet sensible decision" and a "powerful and intriguing form".

Visitors' objections were that it would not blend with the rest of the museum, that it was too large in scale and the tiles were inappropriate, and that the design was "attention-seeking".

Those in favour, however, argued that it would give the V&A a boost for the 21st century and open a new path for architecture in the capital. They felt it was a better solution than creating a pastiche of the existing buildings — such as the National Gallery's Sainsbury wing — and that it would create a popular meeting place.

Gwyn Miles, head of major projects, said the museum was responding to the views of visitors. The design had been modified by being shrunk by five per cent, following criticism that it was too large for the site. But it would not be prepared to water down the concept, she warned. "It fits what we are going to do exceptionally well. We want an imaginative and modern building relevant to today."

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Undaunted, in 1918 he founded a private company with two RAF colleagues, funded by a £2,000 loan from a friend of investment bankers. They began building their engines, sometimes using reclaimed scrap metal. Finally, in 1939, the Air Ministry ordered that Sir Frank's five experimental engine was the basis of a power plant that could take aeroplanes to unprecedented heights and speeds. On May 15, 1941, Sir Frank's obdurate approach was crowned with success when, at Cranwell airfield, Lincolnshire, the Gloster Gladiator became the first turbojet-powered aircraft to fly successfully. Jet fighter aircraft finally entered service in 1944, but Sir Frank always maintained they could have been used against Hitler years earlier in the Battle of Britain, but for the Government's lack of interest and delays. The first jet engines did not enter production until 1947, after the Second World War. Sir Frank's plans, meanwhile, moved to the US, which used them for its entire post-war aircraft industry. He later heavily criticised the nation's rejection of jet propulsion, saying it was responsible for Britain losing its lead in jet engine technology. Frank was knighted in 1950 and received a reward of £100,000 for his contribution to the war effort. In the same year, he was awarded the RAE with the rank of Air Commodore on the grounds of ill health.

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international

# Refugees flee as battle rages in Grozny

**Carlotta Gall** witnessed the suffering of those caught up by the conflict in the Chechen capital

Hundreds of refugees poured out of Grozny yesterday, the sounds of fierce battles behind them, crossing fresh volunteer fighters who were moving in to join the battle for the city.

The refugees came on foot or crammed in Russian Zhiguli cars and open trucks, along a muddy track through the woods, as sounds of heavy airstrikes and artillery echoed in the southern suburbs of the city. Half the sky overhead was black from smoke drifting from the oil refinery, which was burning on the west side of the city.

The Chechen fighters guarding the wooded trail, which seems to be the only way in and out of the city, suddenly shouted for people to take cover. The clatter of a helicopter was above them as people fled along the path, dropping their bundles, veering off in to the cover of the trees. Two loud explosions burst ahead of them in the woods, rockets fired by the helicopter that had already wheeled away. The refugees pressed on in panic. Panting and sweating, they had been walking for four or five hours from their homes in the centre of the city, where fierce fighting was raging around the main government building.

"The fighters are everywhere, in every house, in every street, they completely control the city," Rosa Khazbek said. "The helicopters are firing into the houses non-stop."

After three-and-a-half days in a cellar, with no water and no food, she and her neighbours decided to make a run for it.

With 13 children among them, they crossed besides the fresh volunteer fighters who were moving into the city. Dressed in jeans and track suits and with cheap plimsoles on their feet, they carried Kalashnikovs bought with their own money, they said, at the beginning of the war. A few had rocket-propelled grenades, the Chechens' favourite weapon, the shoulder-held launcher slung across their backs.

They walked around the Russian posts on the ap-



Street fighter: A Chechen rebel just after firing a rocket launcher during fierce fighting for the control of central Grozny

Photograph: Robert King/AP

proaches to the city and then trekked through the woods. One group sat under the vines in a courtyard on the outskirts of Chernorechiye, awaiting orders from their commander.

Hugging the walls of an outbuilding, they listened as a helicopter gunship blasted Chechen positions only 500m away. The next second the gunships seemed to turn on them, firing two rockets with a great roar, that was followed by the grunt of a machine gun.

"Swines," one fighter muttered under his breath. He had said the same earlier, when Russian jets unleashed a series

of bombs on the southern suburbs less than a kilometre away, the massive explosions echoing through the woods.

As the helicopters circled away, following their last sally, Akhmad Zakayev, commander of the south-western front and one of the Chechens' top rebel commanders, raced up the road and into the courtyard in a white Volga car, accompanied by fighters in a Russian jeep. Wearing a black headband inscribed with an Arabic prayer, he smiled and embraced several of the new volunteers.

Chechen forces completely controlled the city, he said.

They had surrounded the government building and destroyed a whole Russian armoured column which had tried to break through from its base at the northern airport.

The operation in Grozny was designed to force Russia to restore the peace agreement signed in the Kremlin and in Nazran before the Russian presidential elections. "Those who violated them must be punished," he said, clearly referring to the Russian military leadership.

The fighters would stay "as long as it takes," he said, by seizing ammunition from the

Russians in order to replenish their own supplies.

Russian soldiers manning checkpoints on the road west of the capital had heard about the disaster of the armoured column. "We heard a column was destroyed and bearded men are now driving around town in the armoured personnel carriers that are still working," one soldier said.

A veteran of 12 months' fighting in Chechnya, he shrugged his shoulders over the incident. "We are softening them up with artillery and then we will go in and finish off what we left [standing] last time," he

said. "And we'll cut off a few ears," he added, making the Russian soldiers' most frequent grisly threat.

Moscow — A correspondent for Russia's Itar-Tass news agency said last night he and a number of colleagues were still sheltering from heavy fighting in central Grozny and denied earlier reports that they had been freed, Renter reports.

Sergei Trofimov, a correspondent of Itar-Tass, said the group had been joined by five women and a child, who had braved "a hurricane of fire" in order to reach the basement of the government hostel.

## Rebel victory ruins Yeltsin's day of pomp

HELEN WOMACK  
MOSCOW

Chechen rebels yesterday ruined Boris Yeltsin's inauguration, savaging his army in Grozny as he made a brief appearance in Moscow to take the presidential oath to protect human rights and the security of Russia.

All that could be said in favour of the ceremony, held inside the Kremlin rather than on the square outside, to save the cost of seeding the rain clouds, was that it was mercifully short.

This was thanks to Mr Yeltsin's new head of administration, Anatoly Chubais, who understood that the rebels' infiltration of Grozny was a propaganda disaster for Russia. Yesterday, the separatists completed the Kremlin's humiliation by seizing large parts of the city of Grozny and pinning down thousands of federal soldiers with gunfire before pulling back towards evening.

Mr Chubais had been studying records of the last Tsar's coronation in 1896 to get ideas for Mr Yeltsin's inauguration. The draft text of an election victory ode had been published in the press. "Our proud state, great and glorious, doth rejoice; the whole country is full of strength since the people made their choice," it read.

But this week, plans for a more modest ceremony were announced. The official reason was that the budget could not bear anything lavish. But there was speculation that the Chechen crisis and Mr Yeltsin's precarious health had affected the decision.

The 65-year-old leader, who had not been seen in public since a week before his election on 3 July, looked stiff as he walked along a red carpet to a stage in the Kremlin Palace. But he pronounced his oath clearly and stood for 15 minutes while the Russian Orthodox Patriarch, Alexy II, blessed him.

"Thank God," said one Russian as she watched the proceedings on television. "I was afraid that he was going to fall over."

The inauguration ended with a 30-gun salute from an artillery unit on the lawns under the Kremlin wall, as if the country were truly celebrating and no guns were traumatising Grozny.

At a reception for 3,000 guests afterwards, Mr Yeltsin was reported to have been lively, considering the official "colossal weariness" that he is suffering from. Russians have been officially reassured that their leader's heart is not troubling him as it did twice last year.

He made a toast and gave

### Officials studied the coronation of the last Tsar to get inspiration

a speech which was a little less wooden than the oath," one Western guest said.

"Then he had a few glasses of champagne and he looked fairly sprightly when he walked out."

Mr Yeltsin's first act after officially resuming his powers was to ask parliament to confirm his Prime Minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, for a further term. The State Duma will decide the matter today. Although the President's Communist and nationalist opponents have a majority, they do not appear to be in a mood to rock the boat by rejecting Mr Chernomyrdin.

Thus, the chances are that Mr Yeltsin will be able to go on holiday shortly, leaving Mr Chernomyrdin to deal with Chechnya. But the prospects are not bright for an early resumption of the peace process and many politicians in Moscow now admit there is no alternative to a negotiated settlement.

## Prisoner of time shrugs off his seven-year hitch

**Robert Fisk** in Beirut welcomes back his colleague Terry Anderson, who was the longest-held hostage in Lebanon

We were driving through the Lebanese Shia Muslim suburb of Ouzaï when Terry Anderson looked to the left of the car. "They took me straight down this road, through the Syrian checkpoint without stopping, and turned left into a lock-up garage right around here," he said. On 16 May 1985 "they" kidnapped Terry Anderson close to his home in west Beirut, and somewhere amid the furniture stores and bakeries and ironmongers here he spent the first night of almost seven years of captivity, the longest-held hostage in Lebanon.

And now he was back, grinning in the back of a Beirut taxi, driving towards southern Lebanon through the city in which he suffered a miniature Calvary of hopelessness for the crime of being an American. "How do I know exactly where I was, Fisk? I was blindfolded. But it was on this road."

Maybe up that cul-de-sac, I suggested, in one of the three steel lock-ups below the red-earth wall below runway 1-8 of Beirut International Airport? "I could hear the jets," he said. "You know, later, when I was in my cell at Hay el-Selun, I was so close to the runways that I could smell the acro-engine fuel off the jets when they were about to take off."

We had known that, had sat on those same jets and looked at the two-storey concrete slums and said "Hi Terry" in our minds, knowing that the man we knew so well was growing older in the buildings 100 yards away. We were free — just — and he was not, and we did not wish for any exclusive interviews in the basements of Beirut.

And now here was Terry, returned for the first time, to film a documentary, to the land in which he spent so many years a hostage, not particularly interested in his place of near-martyrdom, refusing to blame anyone, reading the morning Beirut papers much as he did when he was the Associated Press bureau chief in Beirut.

"Everyone changes, Fisk," he said. "I was locked up for seven years. If you spend seven years in that situation and you don't change it would really be a waste. I've

changed as much in the last five years as I did in the previous seven. But I still believe the same things I did. I'm still the same person."

Is he? Overweight, as usual, waving away problems, he seemed to be the same Terry, oblivious to the dangers of bombs and shells. But that is how he was kidnapped, ignoring the warning signal of an attempted kidnap down the road from our apartment block a day before his abduction. He seemed to me easier to anger, his humour more cautious. Or was this because I too have less patience now?

On our balcony, he aimed a champagne cork at his favourite palm tree — Terry lived in the flat above ours — and the cork landed dead centre of the fronds. And in the corner by my front door, we later found ourselves remembering that this was exactly where we had sat, one floor above, on the night before his abduction 11 years ago. I had told him then that it was better to fight a kidnapper. He had insisted it was better to give up without a fight, because "if they come, it's better to let them take you". After his release, Terry had signed for me a copy of his hostage biography, writing on the title page: "See — I was right!"

He broke the US travel ban to return to Lebanon — he told the US Senate foreign relations committee he would do so because "neither the Congress nor the State Department can prevent any American from going anywhere he or she chooses" — but in theory he could be prosecuted. More likely, the State Department will keep its mouth shut, aware that if the very symbol of an American "terrorist" victim happily travels back to Lebanon, the reasons for the travel ban represent a lie.

Algeria is more dangerous for foreigners than Lebanon, Anderson argued. So is Egypt. So why Lebanon?

He journeyed through Lebanon with his Lebanese wife, Madeleine; their daughter, Sulome, was born three months after his kidnapping. "Our main task is to take the things that have happened to us and make use of them in a positive way," he said. "We have things now we would not have had that doesn't in any way lessen the cruelty of what they did to me. We are here today because of everything that has happened to us. Both of us. But it is all done. It has brought us to this place. It's a good place to be."

Later, he will meet the leadership of the Hizbollah whose satellite minions once took Terry off to his seven years of captivity. But he has no interest in confrontation. "I want to hear what they say, to understand Lebanon with new eyes."

One of the more imperishable moments of his visit came when he met Lebanon's Prime Minister, Rafiq Hariri, who had no role in the civil war. As Anderson stood to greet the ruler of the country in which he was held captive, Mr Hariri advanced with outstretched hand, just a hint of a smile on his face, wondering how to frame his greeting. Then, after a slight hesitation, Mr Hariri said quietly: "Welcome back."

No regrets: Terry Anderson back in Beirut yesterday for the first time since 1989

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# international

## Stink robs Siberian express of its magic

It is hot, and getting hotter. The air is as thick and clinging as the snug in a crowded British pub on a Sunday lunchtime. And it smells.

The four of us in this tiny compartment know why. Nikolai, one of our company, has a supply of raw fish wrapped in newspaper under his bed.

Half an hour ago, not for the first time, he dug out a couple, gutted them on a cloth on his bed and, with the air of aordon bleu chef preparing a particularly special dish, chopped them up for us to eat.

He is a genial, middle-aged man, with the fixed smile of a cat and a shiny blue shell suit that would stand out on the Strip in Las Vegas. For the last two days, as our train sidled slowly across the contours of Russia's stomach, he has regaled us with stories about his life as a factory official in Irkutsk in eastern Siberia. But the fish is a problem.

World's longest ride is no joke when raw fish are on board, writes Phil Reeves

to have storms which never reach its shores, 50 million years old (ancient enough for 1,500 endemic species), more than a mile deep, repository of a fifth of the world's fresh water supply and its own species of seal, the nerpa.

But these figures, and the lake's hazy beauty, have been jugged to the back drawers of the memory by the slow lollap of the last 1,400 miles. Only one detail looms large: it was there, during a brief stop in a small settlement on the lake's shore, that Nikolai bought his food supplies. Baikal is the only place on the planet where you can find the golomyanka fish, which dissolves into an oily blob when brought to the surface. Unfortunately, Nikolai bought "ornu". They have remained intact.

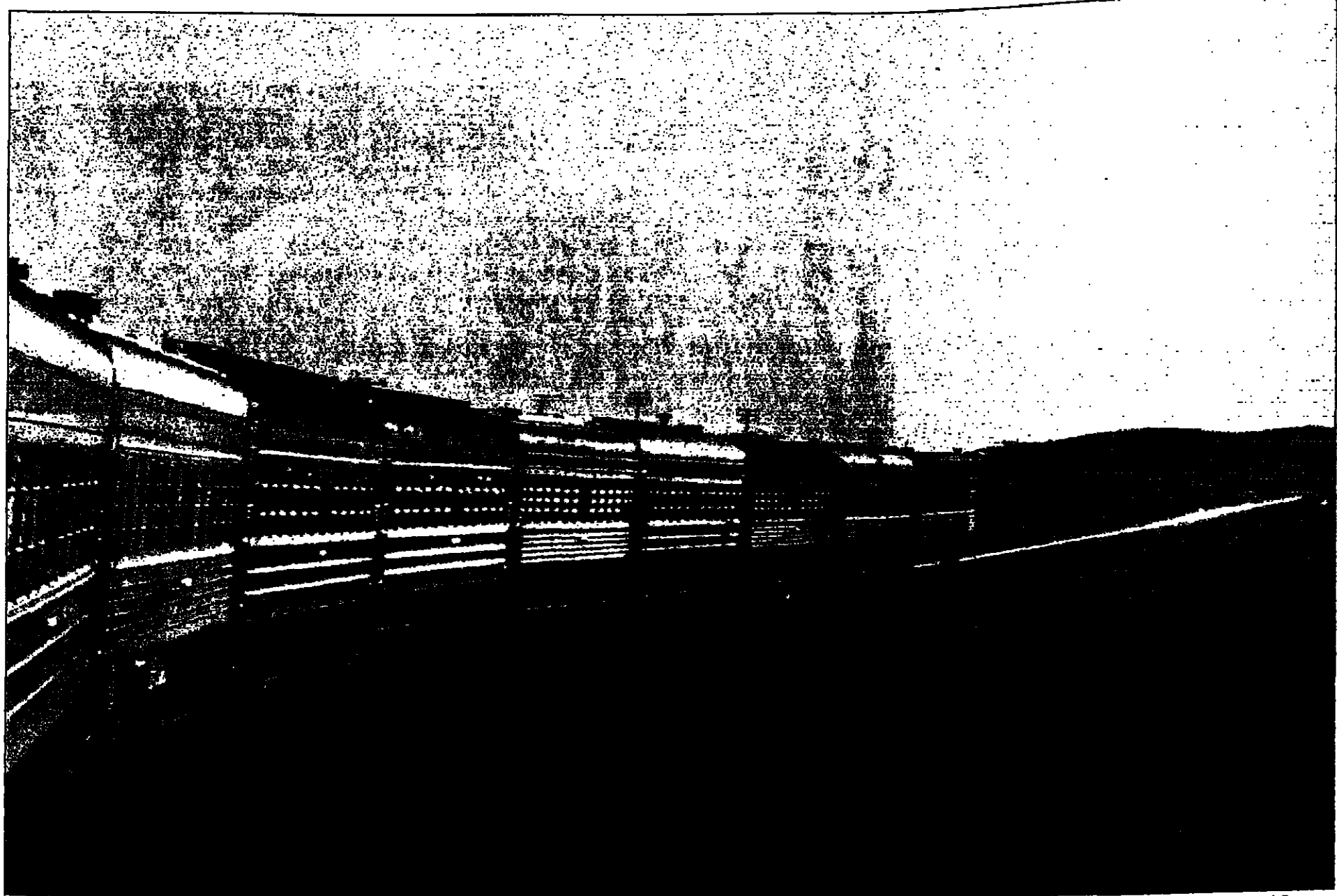
There is no point in complaining about the stench to Marina, the bored-looking peroxide-haired carriage attendant. The windows of our German-made carriage cannot be opened, as it is supposedly air-conditioned. Her principal task seems to be to hoover the carriage every 24 hours or so, usually when we are nodding off. Nor is there much evidence that she is on the ball: she has been spotted wandering the corridors in a long crimson dressing gown, well after daybreak, with her locks in curlers.

But, then, no-one on the train seems to know the time. Small knots of people gather in the corridor to study a timetable on the wall, trying to relocate themselves in the surreal vacuum that has evolved since the train set off.

There is a clock showing Moscow time, but it doesn't help much: we are running late, and most of the passengers have started from a different point on the seven time zones through which the train passes on its 5,778-mile journey from Moscow, across the Urals and Siberia, to Vladivostok and the Sea of Japan - the longest continuous rail journey in the world. Very few people seem to be travelling the whole way. For most, the calculations become too complicated to be worth the bother.

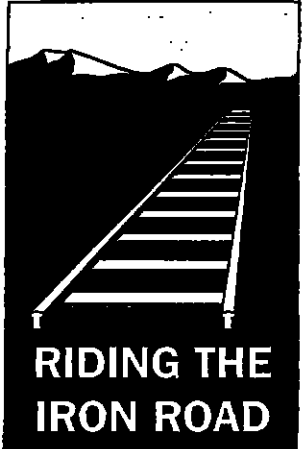
Outside, the "taiga", the endless forests of silver firs, cedars, birches and pines, has given way to the softer, flatter landscape of the far, Far East. Every now and then we pass a cluster of wooden bungalows, their mud lanes littered with the detritus of Soviet farming equipment. It looks as old as the railway we are riding, which was inaugurated in 1891, under Tsar Alexander III. The faces of the few residents grower wider, testimony to the proximity of Mongolia and China. But neither these, nor the grey sky overhead, offer many clues. Nikolai is convinced it is Tuesday; I know it is Wednesday.

As we argue, Nikolai pours from a vodka bottle on the table. When I boarded in Irkutsk two days ago, I believed this warm, acidic liquid to be the real thing, until I discovered him topping it up from an unmarked plastic container in his luggage. "Medicinal spirit," he explained. "Now, I have got this neighbour, who loves hunting ..."



Track record: Built by the Tsar in the 1890s, the trail link crosses seven time zones before completing its 5,778-mile journey

Photograph: Frank Spooner/Gamma



RIDING THE IRON ROAD

We have heard about how he once shot, and ate, a bear in the forest, and later went hunting for wild boar. He has described fishing through the ice that each winter covers nearby Lake Baikal to such depths that, during the 1904 war with Japan, the Russians laid a railway across its frozen girth and shunted equipment back and forth.

The track hooks around its southern shores, so several days ago we saw the lake for ourselves, a vast grey-blue sheen, the size of Belgium. The guide book overflowed with statistics: it's 400 miles long (large enough



Fin pickings: Nikolai sharing out his supply of pungent raw fish

Photograph: Phil Reeves

There is, of course, a great deal of drinking. The other day a group of Russian army officers, their bellies awash with booze, held a press-up contest with a young British civil servant during a station stop. The Briton, a tourist en route to

Japan, later told me he had "lost" two days of the seven and a half day journey from Moscow. But in an environment in which everyone shares everything, drinks are as hard to refuse as food. In the hope of

enthusiastic, but they sample it politely.

Russians, long used to cramped apartments, are good at this kind of collective living. Our four-berth second class compartment is only six feet wide and seven feet deep. But my companions move easily among themselves as if they were somewhere four times as large. When one of us is making up a bed, or changing clothes, the others automatically slip into the corridor, without exchanging a word. I am the only clumsy one. A couple of hours ago, a large pepperoni sausage fell from my bunk onto the head of one of the women.

Yet there are few places to which to escape these kinds of embarrassments. You can perch on the small, fold-down plastic seat in the corridor, although not without feeling foolish. You can also retreat to the restaurant car, although very few of the mostly Russian passengers on this train go there, not least because, for many, a plate of sizzling chicken and a beer costs the equivalent of a day's pay.

One visit was enough to discover that serving food was not high among the staff's priorities, although they were keen to sell

the gas masks which they claimed to have been issued in the (unlikely) event of a gas attack by Chechen terrorists. The rate was six dollars, a strikingly better bargain than the \$30 that one carriage attendant wanted to charge a tourist for his metal tea-cup holder, or the \$10 he wanted for attaching a shower nozzle to the tap in the grubby wagon lavatory.

The restaurant car is the fiefdom of Mikhail and Sasha who, when they are not selling huge quantities of liquor to villagers at each station, wait for foreigners like me to wander in to relieve the boredom.

"Are you English?" demanded Mikhail. "What happened to your football team?" he said, before, somewhat contradictorily, recanting Gazza's goal against Scotland in the space between the empty tables. "Why is England good at nothing these days? You haven't got a number-one skier, tennis player, skater, ice-hockey player, boxer. Name one!"

There was a pause, and his mind turned anew to business. "Would you like me to find you a woman?" As the Russians say, "Para ili": time to get back to Nikolai's fish.

## Dole pulls tax cuts out of the hat for California

Roger Hedgecock seemed to be in shock. The former Republican mayor turned talk-show host was broadcasting live from outside the hall where the Republicans spent much of last week debating their party's stand on abortion. Mr Hedgecock had invited Jeff White, an anti-abortion crusader with Operation Rescue, to join him, but things had not turned out quite the way he planned.

Mr Hedgecock's conservative credentials are impeccable. For two days last week he stood in for Rush Limbaugh, the giant of right-wing talk radio. But during this broadcast his guest had produced two, four-foot wide pictures of an 21-week aborted fetus, allegedly taken from an abortion clinic's trash. "Good grief," said Mr Hedgecock. "I don't need to be shown a lot of gore to be convinced."

The party truly begins for California's Republicans today, as a train carrying the State's delegation begins winding its way down the coast to San Diego. For the convention crowd, the Republicans' bash at Planet Hollywood restaurant tonight has been declared the place to be seen.

Yet there was evidence of

Republicans are hoping to win the West coast, but abortion divides them, reports Tim Cornwell in San Diego

discomfort in this city known for its steady Republicanism, with both abortion as an issue and Bob Dole as a candidate. "California's delegation by two-to-one is pro-choice," said Steve Cushman, a long time Republican and chairman of the San Diego Chamber of Commerce.

Ronald Reagan called San Diego his "lucky city", the place where he chose to end his campaigns. Last week, as Bob Dole reached for the great communicator's mantle with his promise of sweeping tax-cuts, Republicans in Reagan country were thrilled by the old anti-tax message. But they were looking askance at the messenger.

Eighty miles north in Orange County, the conservative bastion of California, the party-line was being hung out: that though Dole would lose heavily in the State today, the campaign has yet to start, and he will get a huge injection of campaign funds when he is officially declared candidate. "The enthusiasm is growing," insisted Dale

Dykema, president of the Lincoln Club, whose 350 members must have donated at least \$1,500 each to the Republican Party. "If we can swing California, Bob Dole is president."

The Lincoln Club is spending \$50,000 to get the vote in Orange County, which traditionally has helped to swing the State's vote. It is hoping to use support for the California Civil Rights Initiative - a ballot proposal that opposes affirmative action - to draw conservatives to the booths on polling day.

San Diego's conservatism is noted in defence with naval and air bases making military the city's second largest industry. But Republicans are still smarting from 1992, when the county went for Bill Clinton with the vote split by a 25 per cent vote for Ross Perot.

The Republicans are now swamping the hotels at the height of San Diego's tourist season. Mr Dole's promise of 15 per cent income tax-cuts will

go down well in a city where earnings are well above the national average, and whose economic engine is an entrepreneurial high-tech industry, according to long-time Republican consultant Jack Orr. Clinton's tax increases aimed at the wealthy, he said, had added \$10,000 to his own tax bill.

Dole's 35-year voting record, however, seems never to have reflected anything like the economic programme he now claims to embrace, according to Tom Stickle, who was the State's campaign chairman four years ago for George Bush. Mr Stickle claims that "the greatest enthusiasm" he has been able to sense in San Diego this week has been over rumours that former housing secretary and neo-liberal darling, Jack Kemp, would be Mr Dole's vice-presidential running mate. "That is more curious to me than, gee, when is Dole going to get there?"

Tom Blair, a long-time Republican and editor of the *Union Tribune*, the San Diego magazine, said: "I don't know of any Republicans who have any sense of confidence in Dole's ultimate victory." The general mood, he said, was more one of quiet resignation.

TIM MCGIRK  
New Delhi

Tamil Tigers had long been braced against an attack by the Sri Lankan army on their rebel base at Kilinochchi. And when the army offensive, backed by warplanes, began late last month, the Tamil rebels fought back with deadly effect, knowing that if they lost Kilinochchi town, they would have nowhere left to go but the jungle.

The rebels erected bunkers and dug watery trenches along the rice paddies, and when the Sri Lankan troops rumbled into the northern outskirts of Kilinochchi, the soldiers encountered a hellish barrage of mortars, rockets and machine-gun fire. A military spokesman claimed that nearly 70 soldiers have been killed in the battle for Kilinochchi, which has become bogged down to a deadly crawl as the soldiers dodge the bullets and flying shrapnel exploding in the rice fields and marshes.

The Tamil Tigers have admitted to losing 51 defenders in Kilinochchi, and through their London office the rebels yesterday claimed that more than 30 Tamil civilians were killed in bombing runs and shelling by Sri



Tamil chief Prabhakaran: will fight on the run in the jungle

Lankan forces. The Tamil Tigers called for "international intervention" to stop the Sri Lankan government's "mass slaughter of the Tamil people".

However, the Sri Lankan army is in no mood to halt its assault on Kilinochchi. During the night of 16 July, the Tamil Tigers over-ran an army camp at Mullaitivu, in the north-east, slaughtering more than 1,400 soldiers. Only a dozen men survived; some jumped down a well, others shimmied up coconut trees and clung there in fright until reinforcements arrived five days later. That was

the army's worst disaster in its 13-year war against Tamil separatists. But then, on 24 July, the Tamil Tigers reportedly struck again: two bombs exploded on a Colombo train during rush hour, killing at least 70 commuters and injuring 450 others. After these attacks, the army set out to capture Kilinochchi, not only for strategic reasons but to restore its battered morale.

Meanwhile, international aid workers have expressed concern for thousands of Tamil refugees who may be trapped in the fighting. More than 200,000 Tamil refugees were huddled around Kilinochchi, made homeless by the battles earlier this year on the Jaffna peninsula.

Many refugees have fled into the jungle or run to villages outside the battle zone. But aid workers are worried that the recent offensive has cut off refugees' food and medicine supplies. The Tamil Tigers accuse the government of blocking an aid convoy of about 120 lorries which was trying to reach Tamil refugees inside the rebel-controlled areas.

Even if the Tamil chief, Velupillai Prabhakaran, and his Black Tiger suicide squads, are forced to surrender their jungle

fortress of Kilinochchi, the civil war is far from finished. The well-disciplined and heavily-armed Tigers are a lethal enemy and the government's isolated bases along the eastern coast are easy prey. Yesterday, Tamil Sea Tigers rocketed a Philippine freighter docked north of Trincomalee port.

President Chandrika Kumaratunga, elected on her promise of bringing peace between the minority Tamils and the Sinhalese, now faces a political battle in Colombo, the capital. Several Tamil parties are now threatening to withdraw support unless she resumes talks "without pre-conditions" with the Tigers. But after the Mullaitivu massacre, Mrs Kumaratunga is being urged by her generals not to re-start peace talks with the Tigers - broken off by the rebel chief, Mr Prabhakaran, in April 1995 - until Kilinochchi falls.

Mrs Kumaratunga has slashed back food and agriculture subsidies to pay for the war - and it may be her undoing. Although Colombo and the island's south have been largely isolated from the war, the latest onslaught against the Tamil rebels is crippling the economy.

## Peking makes diplomatic language a game of Chinese whispers

TERESA POOLE  
Peking

Until the Sino-American Treaty of Wanghia in 1844, China's rulers stipulated that foreigners in the Middle Kingdom were not allowed to learn Chinese, such was the Imperial court's contempt for and fear of the foreign devils. Now, China is taking the opposite tack: key government

briefings for foreign journalists will, from next month, take place without the customary English translation, in a move which the *People's Daily* yesterday said "demonstrates that a China full of confidence is walking toward the world with bigger strides".

Explaining the policy, officials hitheily point out that the US State Department conducts its briefings only in Eng-

lish - without Chinese interpretation. Now China will do the same.

The proposed change is symptomatic of China's demands for global "respect", now that its "international status is elevated day by day", said the *People's Daily*.

China's preoccupation with its rising status in the world is trumpeted daily in the official media, whether the reports are

about visiting foreign dignitaries, Olympic Gold medals, or Hong Kong's return to Chinese sovereignty next year.

"The influence a country's spoken and written language has on the international community," the *People's Daily* maintained, "has a lot to do with the prosperity of the country. Only when a country is respected will its written and spoken language be respected."

Unfortunately, the Chinese government seems to be unaware of the possible pitfalls of its new linguistic rectitude. The statement said that the new policy "would enable the world to understand China better".

Or then again, maybe not. Mandarin Chinese is notoriously difficult, and few foreigners feel confident about reliably translating the subtly worded replies served up at Foreign

Ministry briefings. In the past, a ministry translator has provided an "official" translation to be used by everyone, which is corrected on the spot by the spokesman if it is found to be in error.

From now on, each media organisation will have to come up with its own version, in which the diplo-speak may well be mistranslated. A hundred different versions of what China

has said about Sino-US relations, Taiwan, Hong Kong or nuclear testing will appear around the world.

The Chinese government forbids foreign media organisations to hire translators except through the state-run Diplomatic Service Bureau, but the language skills of the staff on offer are often inadequate. Peking says that it wants international recognition of the

"unprecedented charm and dignity" of the Chinese language.

Certainly, the ministry's current use of Chinese is imaginative, if not necessarily charming. A frequently used phrase about the "five principles of peaceful co-existence", for example, might be more accurately translated as: "Why other countries must not raise China's record on human rights".

سكزا من الاربعين



# The malady that keeps Moscow off colour

Rarely can a president have been inaugurated in such humiliating circumstances. Boris Yeltsin, the only freely elected leader in Russian history, looked tired, ill and barely capable of governing the world's largest country when he took the oath of office in yesterday's Kremlin ceremony. What should have been a celebration of Russia's young democracy turned into yet another illustration of the fundamental instability of a country where so much power is concentrated in the hands of one sick man. Far from delivering a memorable Lincoln- or Kennedy-style inaugural address, Mr Yeltsin recited the brief oath, spent a mere 16 minutes on stage, and then hastily departed a ceremony that had been brought indoors and shortened for medical reasons.

To make matters worse, as he solemnly swore to "protect human rights and freedoms" and "earnestly serve the people", thousands of Russian soldiers were under siege from separatist rebels in Grozny, the Chechen capital. Timing their offensive to cause maximum embarrassment to Mr Yeltsin, they conclusively demonstrated this week that, if Russia's armed forces are among the biggest and most powerful in the world, they are also among the most demoralised and incompetent.

Taken together, the intensification of the Chechen war and Mr Yeltsin's poor health mean that he has begun his second term with-

out the optimistic atmosphere and sense of a fresh start that should have accompanied his re-election. Just one month after his victory over Gennady Zyuganov, the Communist challenger, urgent political and economic problems are piling up and Mr Yeltsin has yet to come good on any of his principal campaign promises. Illness accounts for much of the uncertain start, but Mr Yeltsin and his advisers need to grasp that the Chechen war is absorbing too much of the time and energy that should be devoted to political and economic reform.

The war which Pavel Grachev, Mr Yeltsin's former defence minister, once boasted would be over in a couple of hours has already lasted 20 months and, according to the US State Department, cost 35,000 civilian lives. The Russian forces have clearly failed in their objective of drumming the rebels out of Grozny and other major towns and confining them to the mountainous south of Chechnya. Indeed, the Chechens made a better job of seizing parts of the capital this week than did the Russians when they first tried to capture Grozny in December 1994. In such a conflict, which pits highly motivated, well-armed guerrillas against poorly paid soldiers and reluctant conscripts, the initiative will always lie with the guerrillas, who can infiltrate towns, strike at will and filter away.

If any event proved that this is an unwinnable war for Russia, it was the latest



Chechen offensive. During a week when it was essential that nothing should spoil Mr Yeltsin's inauguration - the first such grand national occasion since Tsar Nicholas II's coronation in 1896 - Russian forces showed themselves incapable of defending a city against fighters who are officially dismissed as "bandits" and "terrorist gangs". It makes little sense to blame the rebels, as the United States did this week, for launching their offensive. It had been clear for several weeks that the Russian forces had little intention of honouring the truce that Mr Yeltsin accepted in June as a way of taking the Chechen war out of the electoral debate. The basic responsibility for the war lies with the Kremlin, as Mr Yeltsin himself acknowledges in his more reflective moments.

Since there can be no military solution to the conflict, the only way forward is a restoration of the truce, followed by a negotiated settlement. This in turn will free Mr Yeltsin and his government to concentrate on overcoming the challenges facing Russia, particularly on the economic front. The most important problem is the state budget deficit. The government's failure to collect taxes efficiently and keep the deficit under control caused the International Monetary Fund to withhold last month's tranche of the \$10.2bn (£6.6bn) loan agreed earlier this year to underpin Russia's market reforms.

It is vital that the Russian government

should introduce detailed tax reforms and make a determined effort at collecting taxes from cheating companies, for without the IMF funds, the entire reform process could grind to a halt. Yet a successful tax policy, like a successful anti-inflation programme, requires sustained political will, and much of the government's will is being sapped by the prolonged and brutal Chechen war.

Mr Yeltsin has probably not helped matters by reconstructing his administration in a way that seeks to balance various Kremlin interest groups and personalities against each other. He has nominated Viktor Chernomyrdin, a moderate reformer representing the oil and gas industry, to continue as prime minister. But he promoted Alexander Lebed, an erratic retired general, to be his personal security adviser, and then let him pick Russia's new defence minister, Igor Rodionov. Mr Chernomyrdin and Mr Lebed each sees himself as Mr Yeltsin's natural successor, and neither regards the other with warmth. The atmosphere of intrigue and struggle, all the thicker because of Mr Yeltsin's illness, cannot serve the cause of effective government.

Yet the chief obstacle to a successful Yeltsin second term remains the Chechen war. After this week's events, it should be clear to him that Russia's problems can only grow more acute the longer he delays peace negotiations and the search for a political settlement.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### No change to drink-driving limit

Sir: Your front page and leader (8 August) on drinking and driving accused me of seeking "excuses" for not lowering the legal blood alcohol limit. Whatever else, "excuses" are not my style.

Like you, I am concerned that the massive reduction in drink-related fatalities over the last decade now seems to have bottomed out. I agree that every life lost is an avoidable tragedy. You are right that complete abstinence is the only sensible policy and it is the message we constantly conveyed. You are right too, that habits have indeed changed - largely, I would argue, because of the sustained media campaign over the past 10 years that has proved extraordinarily effective.

But it is precisely that overwhelming public support that could be forfeited if government were seen to be going beyond what the public perceives as reasonable. It is not the legal blood alcohol limit that saves lives. As you yourselves point out, many countries in Europe have lower limits and tougher penalties, yet none has a better record on alcohol-related road deaths. It is the acceptance of the underlying message that has changed our habits, and it is that which I believe would be at risk if the Association of Chief Police Officers, the British Medical Association or any other no doubt well-intentioned body disturbs the present consensus.

There may be a time when it will be right to introduce a lower limit, but that time is not now.  
STEVEN NORRIS MP  
(Epping Forest, Con)  
House of Commons  
London SW1

Sir: Your report that police chiefs are about to make a public show of support for lowering the present drink-driving limit heralds a breakthrough for the campaign run by doctors, road safety and health groups for many years.

Lowering the drink-driving limit will save hundreds of lives. With the Association of Chief Police Officers about to add their voice to that of the BMA, the Parliamentary Advisory Council for Transport Safety, the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Alcohol Misuse and Alcohol Concern, surely it cannot be long before the Government sees the sense of changing the law.  
MARY-ANN MCKIBBIN  
Director  
Alcohol Concern  
London SE1

Sir: A reduction in the level of alcohol with which we may drive will probably save lives, and is to be welcomed.

However, you fail to put the figures for drink-related deaths into context. You say that in 1993, 540 deaths were attributable to drink-driving. There was a total of 2,969 deaths in motor vehicle accidents in England and Wales in 1993, so it follows that 2,429 of them (82 per cent) involved stone-cold sober drivers.

A motor vehicle is a killing machine with or without alcohol. It is not time that much more publicity and effort was put into reducing the other 82 per cent of the deaths?  
J P JOHNSON  
Bristol, Avon

### Medieval views on abortion are ignorant

Sir: Paul Valley asks in his article "To imagine is to understand" (6 August) why anti-abortionists, categorically regarded as religious absolutists, fail to recognise the views on abortion of medieval scholars such as St Augustine or St Thomas Aquinas.

The answer is simple: knowledge about procreation, conception and when life begins was very limited in the Middle Ages. Bold theories such as those that "ensoulment" took place 40 days after conception, disguised the lack of knowledge. It was science that showed the faults in the bold theories advocated by the Church. For example, Aquinas's view, that up to a certain point the child was part of the mother (poor as that theory may be), was proved wrong by the 17th century, when William Harvey discovered that after only three weeks the child had blood circulation of its own.

Today, we know that the ovum contains the complete genetic programme for an individual. Those

who are still, at the dawn of the 21st century, advocating abortion betray any values conveyed by the Enlightenment, and take the view of the Middle Ages. The difference is that they cannot claim the innocence of the ignorant.  
TOBIAS SCHUMACHER  
London W14

Sir: If we are really concerned for the welfare of children then we should expect every pregnant woman to ask herself two questions: one is "do I really want this child?" the other is "have I reasonable prospects of giving this child a fair chance in life?"

If the honest answer to either of these questions is in the negative then, in my opinion, the woman has a moral duty to consider abortion. If the notion of children's welfare means anything then no fetus should have live birth imposed upon it in the absence of positive answers to both questions.  
ERIC STOCKTON  
Sandy, Orkney

### Steel and Power Age

Sir: I enjoyed the picture of the crannog in Loch Tay ("Bronze Age high-rise comes home to Loch Tay with a house on stilts", 8 August). I believe that at least one of the six volunteers working on the project, "using traditional building methods", may have made a discovery even greater than the scientists analysing the Martian meteorite.

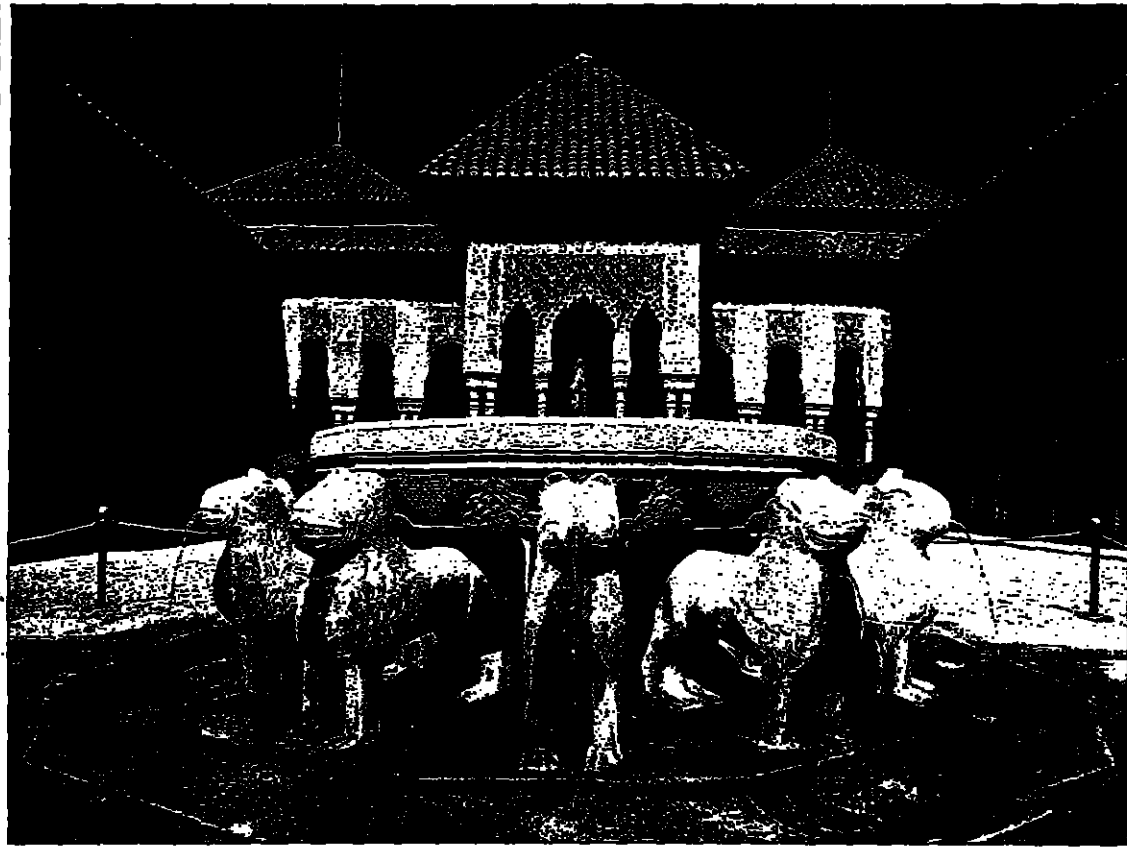
In late May, I spent three days at a hotel less than 100 yards from the crannog. Every so often the peace was broken by the unmistakable sound of a chainsaw being applied to the "natural materials".

Perhaps the Bronze Age should be renamed the Steel and Power Age.  
GARY STATE  
Hounslow, Middlesex

### Pinewood's Ned Kelly

Sir: Talking of "Ned Kelly" films (letters, 7 August), don't forget the Peter Finch one made at Pinewood in 1957. The nearest we got to Australia was the back lot at Pinewood! As one of Ned's gang I remember the hot days in the saddle as we rode across the built-up sand dunes.

If memory serves me rightly it was called *Robbery Under Arms*. No masterpiece, but a lot of fun and Peter made a dashing Ned. It was directed with great outback gusto by Jack (A Town Like Alice) Lee.  
PETER PORTEOUS  
Nubourne, West Sussex



The Alhambra, at Granada, Spain: we would be much the poorer without it

Spectrum

### Islam's contribution to world civilisation and culture

Sir: Perhaps Robert Fisk ("Burying the Crusader's sword", 1 August) can explain why the 800-year occupation of Spain, the 400-year occupation of Greece and the Balkans, the 200-year occupation of Sicily, and the 100-year occupation of Corsica (longer than the occupation of Iraq by the British) by Arabs or Turks are not seen for the acts of aggression, colonialism and imperialism that they were. Add for good measure, the three-year siege of Malta, the siege of Vienna in 1683, the capture of Taranto, the yearly raiding parties along the French and Italian coasts and it becomes quite difficult to see these events as merely the actions of uninvited and over-boisterous guests whom the police have been unable to control.

Islamic triumphalism and consequently Islamic jihad or "crusade" and aggression are not fantasies but established facts. If the Pope is to apologise for the Crusades, then perhaps an Islamic Council can apologise for Islam's past depredations. It would be useful and salutary to bear in mind, that in its conquering course, Islam destroyed one major world religion, Eastern religion, Zoroastrianism, and in the words of one Indian writer, "broke the back of Indian civilisation".

None of this would detract from Islam's contribution to world civilisation and culture. We would be much the poorer without the Alhambra, without Averroes and Avicenna, without algebra, without

Persian and Moghul miniatures, and without the Taj Mahal or the Dome of the Rock.

Once apologies have been made on all sides, we could then see yearly gatherings of European and Islamic and Jewish artists and intellectuals, scholars and scientists to examine our common problematic future seen, alas, in the light of a long history of mutual aggression. Hopefully, they would display more balance than Robert Fisk who, in warning against the demonstration of Islam, almost succeeds in demonising Americans, Israelis and Jews and sundry Europeans who happen not to share his views.

JOHN D NORMAN  
London W3

### Short's antics are a threat to Labour victory

Sir: I suspect that many more people must be as weary of the antics of Clare Short and her tribe as I am (report, 8 August). With only months to a general election and a chance to free our country of the nonentities currently in office, we are treated to yet another display of unfocused emoting which can only serve Conservative purposes rather than those of Labour.

She might care to reflect that Tony Blair has made her seat and those of Ken Livingstone, Jeremy Corbyn and the other malcontents infinitely safer than they would have been. In the event of a Tory victory she would be able to parade her left-wing conscience from the well-paid safety of the back benches without any burden of responsibility or loyalty. The real victims would be the old, the poor, the unemployed and all who yearn for a more just society. Her complaints about being attacked from behind by those whom she thought were her supporters might better have been expressed by Tony Blair than by herself, but then, he has more sense.  
LEONARD PRIDE  
Cleckheaton, West Yorkshire

Sir: It is not the combined efforts of Peter Mandelson, Alastair Campbell and Tony Blair that will lose Labour the next general election. If Clare Short is intelligent enough to realise that anything other than a Labour

victory at the next general election could mean the end of the Labour Party, let alone another five destructive years of Tory government, then why is she hell-bent on ensuring that her grim prophecy becomes reality?

Clare Short claims that it is Labour's "obsession" with the media that will prevent them from winning. One sure-fire way to throw it all away is to appear divided and Short is an expert at generating the spin on that.  
BETH LAMONT  
York

Sir: I am bemused by the likes of Brian Mawhinney (6 August) and now Clare Short who seem to think it a shortcoming in Tony Blair that he seeks power.

They have obviously failed to observe a principle which is demonstrable in every walk of life and at every level of social organisation: power is never given, it is taken, usually by those who are the most determined and ruthless. Despite pious protestations to the contrary, the surest guide to understanding such matters remains in the realism of Machiavelli, for while "everyone will admit that it would be most laudable to find all the good qualities combined in a prince... human nature does not allow it".  
FR DOMINIC KIRKHAM  
Corpus Christi Priory  
Manchester

### Whistle-blowing in the workplace

Sir: Paul Valley ("Are you brave enough to blow the whistle?", 2 August) glides over one of the main problems facing senior staff who fall foul of improper employer behaviour - whether it is dishonesty, breach of contract, harassment, health and safety breaches or whatever. He states, of someone who was sacked after blowing the whistle that "although he subsequently won his claim for unfair dismissal, his compensation was statutorily limited to less than half his annual salary."

In 1974, when the Labour government and the Trades Union Congress agreed on the compensation for unfair dismissal, they limited the maximum compensation (which is rarely paid) to less than two-thirds of the average annual salary. It has suited successive governments to protect employers who behave improperly and unfairly, by keeping compensation so low that anyone in even a moderately senior position has virtually no protection under the employment protection legislation. It will be a test of the seriousness of the opposition parties in their "fight" against corruption in business, to see whether they continue to condone this non-protection of just those who would be most effective as whistle-blowers.  
DR HUGH MASON  
Assistant National Secretary  
Association of University and College Lecturers  
Southsea, Hampshire

## LETTER from THE EDITOR

Everyone knows about the silly season, don't they? It's that time of year when everyone is on holiday, nothing happens, so we fluff up stories that can't quite be described as news, and - well, shall we just say - inflate things a little.

I've always thought the silly season is a bit of a misnomer. It never really arrives, and it's rarely very silly. The year I worked in America, my then bureau chief departed for his month-long holiday in the Adirondacks on 1 August assuring me that nothing, absolutely nothing ever happened that would bring people back to Washington DC in the humid mid-summer heat. I could go swimming, see the kids, pop into the office to make a few calls, but there wouldn't be anything to worry about. The next day Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait. I found myself writing half the paper, and my bureau chief paddled back over the lake, climbed in his car and headed back to DC. Somehow something always seems to happen.

And so it's been this week. The Editor goes off on holiday, assuring me that everything's quiet, and the next minute we find ourselves grappling with two of the most fundamental human questions. First we are compelled to ask when society should allow a woman to end half of a twin pregnancy; then we find ourselves pondering what it might mean if we are not, after all, alone in the universe.

So far as seasons go, I'm sure you can make a case for saying that there is something faintly silly about finding a hint of life on Mars - although I am convinced, from our readers' huge fascination for the whole subject of cosmology, that the question twangs a deep chord in our consciousness. The implications for our sense of human selves of an alternative evolution somewhere else in the universe are enormous.

And there is nothing even approximately silly about trying to judge one woman's decision to abort one of her embryonic twins. Inevitably this topic has provoked a deluge of letters, many of which emotively voice the personal experience of twins or mothers who have

struggled with these problems themselves. There is a sense in which newspapers are at their best when they provide a place where real people reflect on the most potent events in their emotional lives - which is what's been happening on this page over the past few days. However, a subject like this also creates certain special discomforts for a newspaper. If the doctor was wrong to expose woman X to a risk of broken confidentiality, were we right to report it so thoroughly, and commentate so vigorously? It is at least ambiguous: the public debate is a great blessing, but it wouldn't have happened if the doctor had not been indiscreet.

The question of whether a hint of life has been found on Mars twangs a deep chord in our consciousness

What else was silly this week? Clare Short's attack on Tony Blair? Nothing very silly about that. In fact, you can usually tell that a political party is huffing and puffing when its spin doctors try to dismiss a story as mere "silly season" agitation, as they did in this case. Nonsense. Clare Short attacked Tony Blair's New Labour programme policies. She attacked him. And she was articulating the opinions of many Labour activists. This story will run and run - until Mr Blair cuts her dead.

My favourite question of the week, though, is who you would choose as the top five British women of the century. I sort of assumed that men would be less eligible to comment on the matter. I, like many readers, was amazed to discover that the Post Office's selection panel hadn't even considered Barbara Hepworth. But then, it's a bit like playing Your Five Favourite Albums. Five Best Novels - you know, the sort of thing you do in the silly season, when you're on holiday...

Colin Hughes  
Deputy Editor

### QUOTE UNQUOTE

If teachers cannot improve, heads and governors must not be afraid to dismiss them - Gillian Shephard, Education Secretary  
Jumping into a car after a smash-and-grab raid on a jewellers to be told by the driver that the car wouldn't go - "Mad" Frankie Fraser on his most embarrassing moment

I don't want to sound big-headed, but it's because I'm a very good entertainer - Max Bygraves explaining his success  
I want to die at a great age, doing a hole-in-one at Lytham, with my wife there to witness it, or she'd never believe me - Gerry Marsden, of the pop group Gerry and the Pacemakers

I've allowed myself half a day to see some koala bears but that's it - Anna Widdowcombe, prisons minister, stressing that her forthcoming two-week trip to Australia will be spent almost exclusively visiting penal institutions

Seagulls have no natural predator - perhaps we will have to become that predator - Hugh Munton, a public health official in Cornwall, after complaints from holidaymakers about birds swooping on them looking for food

He is a vicious, violent tennis player - Clive James, TV personality, on Chris Patten, Governor of Hong Kong, who beat him 6-0, 6-0



## the saturday story

## Dole faces his last hurrah

Next week the Republican presidential contender will be hailed as a conquering hero in a frenzy of choreography. But behind the smiles, says Rupert Cornwell, his party is being taken over

For one wonderful, all-intoxicating moment – lasting at least as long as it takes a blizzard of red, white and blue balloons to drift to earth from the 27-foot-high ceiling of the ungenerously small San Diego Convention Center – Bob Dole will stand supreme. There on Thursday evening, having been ferried across the city's great bay like a conquering emperor of old, a grizzled 73-year-old Kansan will live the American politician's penultimate dream: acclaimed and adored by a gathering of 1,990 delegates from every state in the land as he accepts the Republican party's nomination for the Presidency.

The leathery, eternally tanned Dole face will crack into a wolfish grin, and as he savours his triumph, surely even sweeter still at the third time of asking, the taking of the White House itself will seem the merest formality. And who is to grudge him his instant of finely choreographed glory, the goody show of unity that briefly smoothes over the deepest divisions? Between now and election day on 5 November, there may be few others.

The harsh fact is that Bob Dole enters this convention as the most poorly placed Republican candidate in at least 30 years. Not since Barry Goldwater in 1964 has one been further adrift in the polls. In 1976 and 1992, Gerald Ford and George Bush were almost as far behind at a comparable stage, but they at least had the advantage of incumbency. The past month has been a series of disasters great and small. One moment he seemed to doubt that nicotine was addictive, the next he was gratuitously snubbing the NAACP, the most prestigious black civil rights group. This past week has seen further discomfort: a cave-in on abortion to right-wingers that flatly contradicted earlier commitments, and the embracing of a radical tax-cutting, deficit-boosting economic plan that runs contrary to both his record over 35 years in Congress and every instinct in his body.

Such is the price to pay, however, when your deficit in the polls is 20 per cent, your opponent is stealing your every decent idea, and bribery of the voter seems the only recourse. Today Dole announces his vice-presidential running mate. He will be a worthy soul, to be sure

– but not Colin Powell, the one man who could have transformed Republican prospects at a stroke.

And so we are left with the convention. These days, it is said, a convention counts for little. The smoke-filled room is a memory from a remote pre-environmentalist era. More than any of its predecessors, the four-day spectacular which begins in San Diego on Monday will be a pageant of rubber-stamping. Organisers describe it as a "uniquely interactive gathering." In fact, long before it happened, the occasion was pre-produced for television, complete with fuzzy videos "introducing" Mr Dole to a nation he has served prominently for three decades. Only the ingenious, though, need fear a stumble on the apparatus and the intrusion of real politics: "There won't be any political issues at this convention," Paul Manafort, the convention manager, assures. But

**Bob Dole is the most poorly placed Republican candidate in at least 30 years**

if there are no issues, then image becomes all.

The networks and newspapers will do all in their power not to sup too obediently from the Republican spoon. But next week the party will have its main and last chance of a sustained public showcase, free of competition from the Olympics, the Democrats – even from Clinton, politicking in California this week but graciously on holiday in Wyoming the next. Rather than another orgy of Clinton-bashing, however, what Dole needs desperately is harmony and unity.

Beyond argument he is a stunningly inept campaigner: undisciplined, a wretched and platitudinous speaker, quite bereft of the "vision" that Americans expect from their President. Often he can barely conceal his disdain for the contortions and absurdities of life on the stump. But that is not the only reason for his predicament. Equally responsible are the splits within his own party between moderates and conservatives, especially social con-

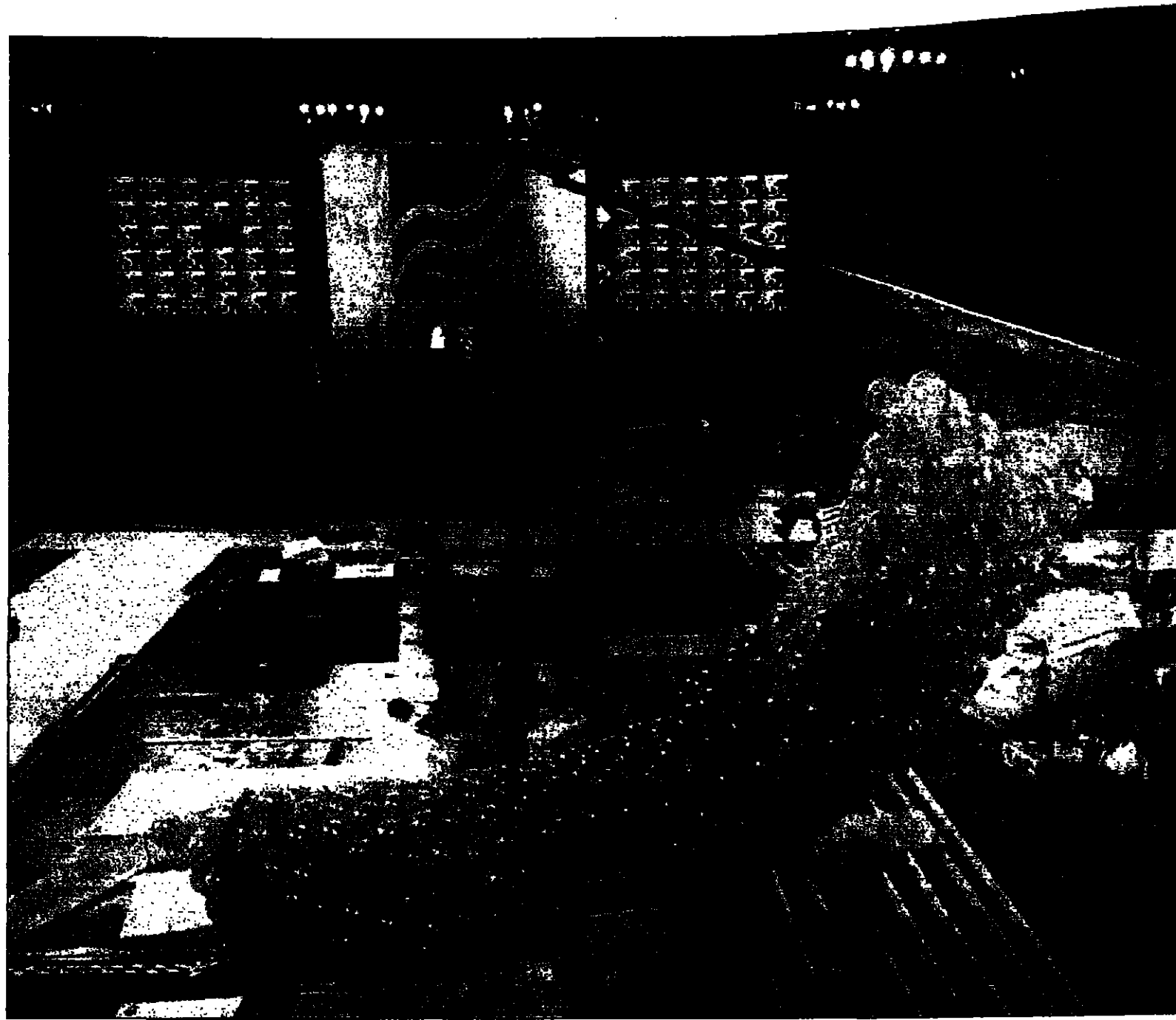
servatives and the religious right, and above all on the issue of abortion. The "Big Tent" has shrunk, the "Open Door" has all but closed. Ronald Reagan, of course, charmed every Republican faction into submission. But his famous "Eleventh Commandment", to "Speak no ill of a fellow Republican," is now honoured in the breach.

With unusual patience, Dole has tacked back and forth this summer to win both social conservatives and pro-life moderates to a compromise on the abortion language in the convention platform. In the end there was a compromise – or more exactly, a capitulation to the religious right, reiterating the demand for a constitutional amendment outlawing abortion, from whose text even the word "tolerance" was literally struck out.

Thus, in cameo, the explanation for the Republican Party's fall from grace since it recaptured control of Congress for the first time in 40 years, just 21 months ago. Thus, too, the prime reason for the wretched state of the Dole candidacy. Since 1992 the fire-breathing Pat Buchanan has roamed the land. The Christian Coalition of the evangelist Pat Robertson (who ran for president in 1988) has been around for even longer, but never has the party seemed as intolerant and exclusive as now, since Newt Gingrich became Speaker of the House of Representatives in January 1995, and the religious right took control of a dozen state parties.

Mr Dole's dilemma, therefore, is that (if Ralph Reed, the angel-faced martinet who is executive director of the Christian Right, is to be believed) 60 per cent of delegates to the convention are social conservatives. Like it or not, he cannot ignore them – not just because they are a majority in San Diego, but because no candidate can afford to alienate his activists. Certainly, shades of difference exist between purists who place moral issues first, and the pragmatists like Reed who know full well that if centrist voters are scared off, Dole cannot win. But for the moment, skilfully nudged by President Clinton, those vital centrists are scared stiff.

What makes his predicament all the more poignant now is that, on paper, Dole is the ideal man to bridge the gap. He



The balloon goes up: the cheers at the convention will be deafening, but they may be the last Bob Dole hears for a long time

Photograph: AP

is a conservative, true, but of an older school, a decent man sceptical of dogma, tempered by hard times and by common sense. Ideologically, if not by background, he resembles his predecessor as nominee, George Bush. Like the patrician Bush, Dole has always been suspected by Reaganite true believers and the religious right. As his poll ratings have nosedived, both camps have fantasised about a Dump Dole effort. The question neither has answered, and which illustrates the depth of the Republican divide, is: If not Dole, who?

Under Republican rules, of course, a coup is impossible. But suppose Mr Dole quit voluntarily, or fell under a San Diego bus. Who could take his place? Certainly not Newt Gingrich, architect of the Contract with America, and now the sin-

gle most unpopular politician in America. Nor even a partially mellowing Pat Buchanan, who, having won 3 million votes in the primaries and now the battle of the platform, is muttering about endorsing Mr Dole, assuming a suitably pro-life vice-presidential nominee was found.

But the religious right would never wear a General Powell, or a moderate pro-choice Governor like Christine Whitman of New Jersey, William Weld of Massachusetts, or Pete Wilson of California. Which leaves either some little-known senator, or a retired grandee from the Bush administration like James Baker. Or, and perhaps most broadly acceptable, the popular former Housing Secretary and passionate supply-sider Jack Kemp – whom Mr Dole has in fact been seriously considering as his running-mate.

But even then the extremism problem will remain. Quite apart from the deal on abortion, whose only merit is to avoid the PR disaster of a public floorfight, the platform is a social conservative wish-list. On issues from immigration to

**The platform is a social conservative wish-list. On every issue, the right has prevailed**

school choice (abolish the federal Department of Education in its entirety), from gays to foreign policy (no US troops under UN command), the right has prevailed. True, convention platforms are traditionally

forgotten by Labor Day, when the campaign begins in earnest, and for a moment next week at least, the quarrelling of the spring and summer will be put aside.

But Bob Dole is caught in a nightmarish trap. He is too weak in the polls to impose unity on his party; yet every day that public disunity persists, that weakness increases. True, victorious American political parties have often seen bizarre bedfellows: none more so than Franklin Roosevelt's Democrat coalition of blacks, blue-collar whites and the segregationist yet viscerally anti-Republican South. But an iron-clad rule obtains. Break those coalitions apart, and the party loses. Lyndon Johnson's civil rights programme cost the Democrats the Old South, and Republicans won five of the next six Presidential elections.

In 1964, Barry Goldwater seemed to do the same for Republicans when he humiliated the "Rockefeller Republicans" and the party's old Eastern establishment at the convention, only to be branded an extremist and subsequently routed in the general election against Johnson. But Goldwater's was a defeat with a difference. From his political ashes arose the new Republican party: Southern-slanted and suburban, ideologically conservative. That battle is being replayed today. Dole, Kansan by birth but East Coast Washington politico to his fingertips, is representative of a vanishing breed. This time, the social conservatives and religious right may drag him down to crushing defeat. But if history is any guide, for better or worse the Republican future is theirs.

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WHILE STOCKS LAST

## Jo Brand's week



Oasis's performance at Knebworth this weekend promises to be a nightmare for the police, who have to get huge crowds in and out over two days with the minimum of trouble. So it is heart-warming to know that the poor old police have been issued with a video to give the officers some idea of the fans they are up against. Oasis fans are described as "feisty, contrary and belligerent", thus setting the scene, one would have thought, for the odd dust-up between the boys in blue and the gig-goers. In my experience, when the police get together in a group, they can be pretty feisty, contrary and belligerent too, although police entertainment tends to feature a couple of strippers and a racist Mancunian comic, rather than a talented Mancunian band. Let's hope the good sense of the band prevents any potential rumbles getting out of hand. Oh dear, I forgot... they're feisty, contrary and belligerent too. No doubt after this weekend, the rozzers will be begging for a few Cliff shows.

Oasis fans: 'feisty', say the boys in blue

A recent charity golf tournament in Fairfax county, Virginia, included topless female caddies and an auction of women to accompany male golfers in their carts. Funny, but I've always thought that the women's movement was particularly strong in America. Perhaps the Fairfax county branch is a bit depleted at the moment. Let's hope this doesn't catch on in professional golf or they'll never get round the course. The American Heart Foundation, for whom the tournament was organised, has said it will return the donation. I don't suppose they realised that quite so many women were going to strip down as near to their hearts as possible. As for the auction side of things, when are these sad women going to realise that to be selected by some menopausal tartan-clad sack of spuds is not a valid assessment of your worth as a person?

I was in Cork last weekend to do a couple of shows and for a change the

tour manager, myself and another actor well before the "Countdown" hour and decided on a visit to Blarney Castle, container of the famous stone. Apparently, the original gift bestowed by the Blarney stone was the ability to tell lies for seven years, something those of us who are crap at it would find far more useful than the gift of the gab. I had always assumed that kissing this thing involved no more than a three-minute stagger off the coach, a slight bend of the waist, maybe, and mission accomplished. To someone like me with the fitness record of a sloth it seemed more like mission impossible. First of all you have to get up to the top of Blarney Castle (no lift), via numerous treacherously narrow winding stairs, so designed that invaders could be dispatched with the most minuscule of shoves. Then you have to pick your way round a narrow lumpy floor full of holes revealing a sizeable drop, and finally lie on your back holding on to two metal bars while an attendant-

type holds your feet and pisses himself laughing, as you are dispatched towards the saliva-sullied object. Kiss the Blarney stone? *Pogue mahone.* (Translation available in Gaelic dictionary.)

Being a bit of an international traveller, this week found me in Shropshire as well, witnessing one of the strangest phenomena I have ever seen. During a heavy thunderstorm, smoke started to billow from a group of trees some 200 yards from where I was staying. We ran to investigate. I use the term "ran" loosely. In fact, in this context, it means "went in the car". The source of the smoke was an enormous tree which had been struck by lightning. It was burning fiercely, and threatened to bring the whole tree down. For once a camera was to hand, although we could not persuade a neighbour down the road to come and have a look as she maintained she has been hit twice by lightning and didn't fancy third time unlucky. I wonder if seeing something like this has some ominous portent? If I'm not here next week, you'll know why.

Cyclists decided to get militant this week and stop the traffic in London on the day of the Tube strike. They are from a group called Reclaim The Streets and are protesting about congestion in London. As a driver, I have to say that cyclists aren't always the conscientious road users they

often claim to be, despite the fact that they do not spew fumes at the rate the rest of us in cars do. As an ex-cyclist myself (incredible as it may seem), I am well aware of the dangers that cyclists face and they don't make it any easier. First, I very rarely see a cyclist obeying traffic lights. They seem to think they have the right to take a short cut across the pavement or just carry on. Second, a sizeable majority don't have lights at night. Then, whenever you go within a few feet of them on the road, so you don't have a crash with another car, they scream sanctimoniously as though they own the road. As for hand signals... non-existent. They have also turned grubby parts of London into what appears to be a suburb of California, with a selection of hideous lycra and face apparatus. Not much of an objective criticism that last one, but I never was much of a scientist.

I had always imagined that the world of the druid lay somewhere beyond the sort of petty earthly squabbles that tie the rest of us down. But no, it seems they're just like us. A row has broken out among Welsh druids because some of them have been sending letters with the stamps on upside down and this is considered a mark of disrespect to her Maj. So far, four people have been banned from ceremonies at next week's Eisteddfod and are planning to protest by turning up in mufti and not in their usual robes. Given the current postal strike, it may be that sticking the stamp upside down might get the letter there more efficiently. Besides, I'm sure the Queen has far more to worry about than her perm being ruined.

سكزا من الاربعين







## obituaries / gazette

## Air Commodore Sir Frank Whittle

A lecture by Frank Whittle was a refreshing cocktail of technical brilliance, laced with bubbly humour and occasionally spiked with a quip or joke to avoid any sign of pomposity. For his listeners, aware that they were in the company of an eminent Englishman and one of the greatest engineers of all time, it was an unforgettable experience.

In today's fast-moving world most of us take the jet engine for granted, as it powers us to almost every corner of the globe. It is easy to forget that by inventing and giving birth to the turbojet, Whittle changed the lives of countless millions of people throughout the world. Few of us know that it was Whittle's engine that introduced America to the jet age, or that (after losing seven years failing to gain any support) he still gave Britain a two- to three-year lead in jet technology immediately after the Second World War. However, many across the globe still identify him as the jet pioneer, and his name is indelibly printed in the annals of aviation history and technology. The former prime minister Margaret Thatcher wrote: "His life and work are an object lesson on the creativity and inspiration of British engineering at its best. He has always retained the great gift of original thought and exposition."

Frank Whittle had to struggle to realise his objectives. He was one of a minority of great inventors to be reared in a working-class background, haunted by the shadow of poverty, as he said, "a street urchin on six days a week and carefully dressed little boy on Sunday". An early fascination for aeroplanes and interest in the sciences, including science fiction, made him determined to become an RAF pilot. From the age of 10 he learnt to use machine tools, and the implements of the draughtsman's trade in his father's workshop. He then won a scholarship to Leamington College, which led to his joining the RAF as a boy apprentice at the age of 16.

After three years of harsh discipline and first-class training as a fitter, 364365 Apprentice Whittle, F, was one of five boy entrants out of 600 to win a cadetship, and his dream of becoming a pilot was within his grasp. The two years 1926 to 1928 were formative. Whittle was physically small, disliked team games, pursued the cult of the individual, he was hardly the sort of chap who would appeal to the more flamboyant and team-spirited ex-public-school fraternity. Although apprenticeship training had given him certain advantages, particularly in the workshops, the social gap was wide.

However, the first flower of his genius was to blossom at RAF Cranwell, where he had become more and more en-

grossed in science and was at his best in physics, mathematics and the theory of flight. At the age of 21, in 1928, he wrote a thesis entitled "Future Developments in Aircraft Design". He envisaged speeds of over 500mph in the stratosphere, at heights where the air density was less than one-quarter of its sea-level value (he had covered the properties of the atmosphere in an earlier thesis). He was awarded full marks by Professor Sinnott, who said, "I couldn't quite follow everything you had written, Whittle. But I can't find anything wrong with it." This thesis was to change the course of his life and sow the seed of a revolution in aviation.

At that time, his ideas were considered by many to be in the realms of fantasy, or science fiction. The maximum speed of front-line fighters then was rather less than 150mph, and they had a service ceiling of only 20,000ft. But this was no dream on Whittle's part. His calculations had proved it possible. The pursuit of excellence in everything he tackled became Whittle's hallmark. And so it was with his flying. He was assessed as "Exceptional to Above Average". For a short phase in his life being a fighter pilot was his forte, and he gave full rein to the "dare-devil" spirit within him. He had become an officer and a gentleman, elated by his pilot's wings; he had fallen in love with Dorothy Lee from an affluent middle-class family.

However, his proposed engine was never far from his thoughts. Nineteen thirty proved a dramatic year for him. On 16 January he filed the Provisional Specification for his turbojet, and on 24 May he married Dorothy Lee in Cornwall. On 24 June he participated in the Hendon Air Display, performing his crazy flying routine, and proved finally that he could do better than the vast majority of his public-school contemporaries, both in the air and on the ground.

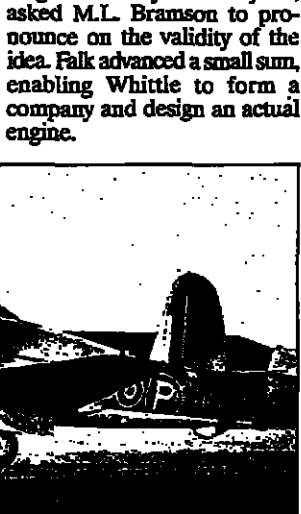
The RAF to its credit, had realised that Whittle was a budding mathematical genius and, after he had completed the officers' engineering course at Henlow, sent him to Cambridge



The father of the jet age: Whittle in his office in 1948. In the foreground is a model of his Gloster Meteor. Photograph: Hulton Getty

University. There he worked around the clock, primarily engrossed in his engine project, and endeavouring to keep pace with his studies. By 1935, he had gathered three accomplices: W.E.P. Johnson, R. Dudley-Williams, and J.C.B. Tilling. These three RAF pilots became partners, and made an invaluable contribution to his project.

By 1936 Whittle's turbojet patent had lapsed, and he had almost given up the idea of ever seeing a turbojet constructed. The breakthrough came when O.T. Falk, a small firm of investment bankers headed by Oswald Falk, a friend and colleague of Maynard Keynes, asked M.L. Bramson to pronounce on the validity of the idea. Falk advanced a small sum, enabling Whittle to form a company and design an actual engine.



Britain's first jet aircraft: the Gloster/Whittle E.28/39, which had its maiden flight in May 1941. Photograph: Imperial War Museum

Thus 1936 was a year of opportunity. Whittle had graduated with First Class honours in the Mechanical Sciences Tripos, and was granted a postgraduate year. During this period of intense activity, Power Jets Ltd was formed and arrangements made to build the WU (Whittle Unit) engine. Whittle's official recognition in high places, Whittle's triumph ended in a battle for survival. Had he received his due official backing when he had been granted his patent in 1931, the RAF might well have been equipped with jet fighters before the Battle of Britain.

Aero-engine manufacturers had enormous vested interests in piston-engine power to protect. They did not want to scrap everything that they had worked for, or to start learning a new technology. They saw the turbojet as a potential rival to their cherished engines, and followed the prevailing belief that gas turbines did not work. It was not until 1939 that Whittle received Air Ministry production contracts for the W.1 flight engine, and the Gloster/Whittle E.28/39 aircraft - Britain's first jet.

The E.28/39 made its maiden flight on 15 May 1941, by which time all major aircraft companies were anxious to become involved and so were the United States, via General "Hap" Arnold. Within six months Whittle engines were being made in the US, and soon America had more jet aircraft

than existed in Britain. At home, plans had been formulated for the production of the Meteor, Britain's first jet fighter. This had been Whittle's goal.

Leslie Cheshire of BTH, who worked with him, said, "The thing that I most remember about Frank Whittle was his total absorption in what he was doing - a total concentration which impinged itself on the atmosphere surrounding him. It was very hard for anybody to evaluate him, because he was a many-sided person who had a charming nature. He trusted people, and believed that everybody was motivated by common good."

In May 1942 he was sent to the US to do whatever he could to help the Americans with their own development of his engine. Whittle was impressed by the vitality and breadth of vision incorporated in the American system, once his project had been accepted. It made him feel good, and it showed more than ever what might have been achieved if he himself had had such backing when he ran his first turbojet in April 1937.

But his visit proved invaluable in other respects. He proved to the Americans, at the highest level, that Britain was in the forefront of aviation technology. The timing was perfect because the war was going badly on all fronts, and Britain needed prestige in America. Lend-Lease agreements were being negotiated and the Atlantic was fast becoming a highway for

the interchange of British and US Army Air Forces personnel. Apart from introducing America to the jet age, Whittle's visit proved of major significance in uplifting British technology, and promoting understanding between the two countries.

But years of tension and strain had taken their toll, and Whittle was suffering bouts of illness which were to recur over a long period. In spite of this he relentlessly carried on his work, determined to give the RAF a jet fighter. It was he who had created and given birth to the turbojet, and he was well aware that he was the key figure in its development as a weapon of war. This required not only his genius, but his driving force and singleness of purpose, which set him apart from lesser mortals, and enabled him to overcome political and bureaucratic frustrations.

That the Ministry of Aircraft Production did not take the pressure off him and give him full support to allow him to get on with the job is well documented and part of history. By the time his technological victory was complete, control of development passed into other hands. When Rolls-Royce came on the scene in 1943, Whittle's vital invention at last took off in Britain. The late Sir Stanley Hooker (formerly of Rolls-Royce who took over engine development) said of him:

"Whittle had an unrivalled grasp of the fundamentals of thermodynamics and aerodynamics, and he never did anything until he had given it the deepest and most logical consideration. As I came to understand his work, I realised that he had laid down the performance of jet engines with the precision of Newton, a feat whose magnitude he never appeared to appreciate."

For the preceding 30 years the performance of piston engines in flight was known only to a very rough approximation based on inaccurate empirical formulae, yet Whittle predicted what a jet engine would do before he had ever made one. His formulae are still used unchanged. They are of such precision that it is more accurate to calculate the performance of jet engines, including the most modern fan engines, than it is to attempt to measure it either in flight or in the astronomically costly test plants, which attempt to simulate flight conditions on the ground. And this is true from take-off to the speed of Concorde, and beyond.

Invalided out of the RAF as an Air Commodore in 1948, Whittle received an award of £100,000, on the recommendation of the Royal Commission. A few days later he was created KBE in the Birthday Honours List, and invested with his knighthood by King George VI in July 1948. He said: "As the King touched me on each shoulder with the sword, I became the first Old Cranwellian to receive the honour of knighthood. The satisfaction which this gave me was overshadowed by my regret that I was leaving the Service in which I had served since the age of 16,

and which had given me the training which made possible the jet engine."

The saddest time for him was to see the break-up of his marriage. "One consequence," he said, "was the cancellation of important projects, notably the L.R.1 which should have been the world's first turbofan, was half complete when stopped. And then the power plant for the M.52 (the Miles supersonic aircraft) went down the drain - also nearing completion."

But Whittle never gave up. In the 1950s he planned Conquest liner operations for BOE, in the 1960s he developed the radical Turbodrill for drilling through the earth's crust as Technical Adviser to Bristol Siddeley Engines (later Rolls-Royce). Emigrating to the US in 1976 he married his second wife, Hazel Hall, and became a Research Professor at the US Naval Academy, Annapolis, Maryland. Throughout, he lectured across the globe as he was sought after by leading aviation companies for advice and consultation, applying his mathematical genius to pure developments in supersonic aviation.

The RAF had been Whittle's mentor since he became a young boy apprentice. It was a product of the Service retaining the style and behaviour characterising an RAF officer. That as a young engineering officer he revolutionised a traditional industry is a measure of his genius. The fantastic development in civil and military aviation during post-war years raises still higher the magnitude of his continuing contribution to technological progress.

When Power Jets was nationalised, becoming the National Gas Turbine Establishment, Whittle surrendered all his shares and rights, stating: "My belief is that a serving officer should not be in a position to benefit from his employment in any commercial sense." Thus, his financial recompense for inventing the jet engine rested with those responsible for making awards. Therein is not only his total sense of duty to the Service he loved, but his resolution, and high moral character.

John Goley

Frank Whittle, air force officer and engineer: born Coventry 1 June 1907; RAF Special Air Unit, attached to Power Jets Ltd 1937-46; CBE 1944, KBE 1948; Technical Adviser to Bristol Siddeley Engines (later Rolls-Royce) 1947-50; Honorary Technical Adviser, Jet Aircraft, BOAC 1950-52; consultant, Bristol Siddeley Engines/Rolls-Royce 1960-70; RDI 1985; OM 1986; married 1930 Dorothy Lee (two sons; marriage dissolved 1976), 76 Hazel Hall; died Columbia, Maryland 9 August 1996.

## The Rev Lawrence Jenco

Father Lawrence Jenco endured over 18 months of captivity at the hands of radical Shia Muslims in Lebanon from 8 January 1985 until 26 July 1986. He was captured on his way to the doctor, just a few months after arriving in Beirut to take up his new position there as Director of Catholic Relief Services.

Jenco's ministry as a Catholic priest was driven by his love of the poor and his sense of social care for others. That is what led him to Beirut, then in a state of war, to minister to the worst afflicted - many of whom were themselves Shias.

He had been ordained a member of the Servite order in 1959, after studying for the

priesthood at Mount Carmel College in Canada, the St Joseph Seminary in St Charles, Illinois and in Rome.

For the next 25 years he worked with the poor and the mentally and physically handicapped, and from 1981 travelled abroad in the employ of the Catholic Relief Services, first in North Yemen (for two years), then in Thailand (1983-84), and for a year in India before taking up his post in Beirut.

Foreigners were particularly at risk of kidnapping by Muslim factions in Beirut in the mid-1980s (Jenco was the 10th of some 71). Nonetheless Jenco believed that he was not the person the Shias wanted to take hostage, rather that he

was mistaken for someone else.

Mistake or not, he was held against his will for more than a year and a half, the first six months in solitary confinement, naked and chained to the wall of a tiny cell in southern Beirut. After his he began to be moved from hideout to hideout, in a number of gruelling journeys. It was at this stage that he was placed in the same room with the Associated Press correspondent, Terry Anderson, the longest-held of all the American hostages, who had been taken captive two months after Jenco.

Though baptised a Roman Catholic as a child, Anderson had little use for religion as an adult. He attributes his adult

conversion to the Catholic faith to his fellow hostage, Lawrence Jenco. Anderson dedicated a piece of his poetry in his book *Den of Lions* (1993) to Jenco. Upon learning of his death, Anderson said of him: "He added more to my life than any other man."

At various times Jenco also shared a cell with two other American hostages, David Jacobsen, a hospital administrator, and Thomas Sutherland, a university dean.

It was his great faith in God, rooted in the Christian scriptures, that allowed Jenco to develop a practical spiritual strategy almost unheard of in this modern world. This was demonstrated by a story he

told about an encounter which, though he did not know it at the time, turned out to be on the day before his release from captivity.

His young Shia guard entered his room. Jenco pulled down the blindfold over his eyes. Until then he had always been addressed as "Jenco" by his guards. That day his guard said, "Dear father, can you ever forgive me?" In reply Jenco said, "Sayid, do you remember those early days [of captivity]?" (He described them as very violent and fearful days.) "Yes, I do," replied the guard. "I hated you," continued Jenco, "I must ask your forgiveness." Chained and blindfolded, the American hostage seeking forgiveness for hating

his guard is not a common occurrence.

After eating his last hostage meal, he read from the Scriptures and wrote this prayer: "God, give me a new heart and a new spirit. You have asked me to love unconditionally. May I forgive as you have asked me to forgive, unconditionally. Then you will be my God and I will be your son." He called the book he wrote about his captivity *Bound to Forgive - the pilgrimage to reconciliation of a Beirut hostage* (1995). Unlike many of his former, fellow hostages, Jenco wanted someday to return to Lebanon to visit the Shias who held him captive for 594 days.

After his release, Jenco ac-

cepted the position as Campus Minister at the University of Southern California (in Los Angeles). Immediately before his death he was an Associate Pastor at St Domitilla Church in a suburb of Chicago, Illinois.

When it was determined this past winter that he had cancer, Lawrence Jenco said, "I always thought that God had a cross for me to carry, and I never thought the cross was being a hostage. Now I think I know what that cross is - to learn how to die." And, as he did with so many experiences throughout his life, he not only was a learner, but a great teacher. For those who knew him during these past seven months, he taught by courageous example how to



Jenco: "bound to forgive" die in peace and with pat dignity.

John Cook

Lawrence Martin Jenco, past-born Joliet, Illinois 27 November 1934; ordained priest 1959; died Chicago 19 July 1996.

## Births, Marriages &amp; Deaths

## BIRTHS

SILLS: On 24 July to Carole (nee Lowe) and Richard, twin girls, Saskia Frances and Imogen Elizabeth. Sisters for Sam.

STOGDON: On 7 August, to Caroline (nee Budge) and Nicholas, a son, Samuel Putnam.

WHISEN: To Julia Thorogood and Francis Whisen, on 2 August 1996, at home, in rural style, Archie Francis Riversdale, a brother for Jack, Frank, George Anna and Bertie. With thanks to all who helped in the birth of our new-born neighbour, Gail Davies.

## DEATHS

LESLIE: Margery Leslie OBE (nee Betts), formerly Principal of the Richmond Adult College, wife of Professor R.F. Leslie for 54 years, died at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford on 6 August 1996. The funeral service will be at St Mary's Church, Charlbury, Oxon, on Tuesday 13 August at 14 noon. Donations to Nine Acres Recreation Ground Charlbury, c/o R.F. Leslie, Market House, Church Street, Charlbury OX7 3PP.

Announcements for Births, Marriages & Deaths (BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS) (BIRTHS, MARRIAGES, DEATHS) should be sent to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 3BQ, or by fax to 0171-263 2011, and are charged at 60p a line (VAT extra).

## Forthcoming marriages

Mr L.J. Purcell and Miss S. C. Lorraine. The engagement is announced between Sarah Claire Lorraine, daughter of Mrs Robert Ayres, of Stewkley, Buckinghamshire, and Ian James Purcell, elder son of Mr and Mrs Terence Purcell, of Loughton, Buckinghamshire.

## Birthdays

TODAY: Mr John Alldis, conductor, 67; Dame Gillian Brown, former diplomat, 73; Dame Elizabeth Butler-Sloss, a Lord Justice of Appeal, 63; Sir Lawrence Byford, management consultant, 71; Mrs Lella Campbell, former chairman, ILEA, 85; General Sir George Cooper, former Chief Royal Engineer, 71; Mr Eddie Fisher, singer, 68; Miss Rhonda Fleming, actress, 73; Professor Alexander Goehr, composer, 64; Sir Alan Hardcastle, former head of Government Accounting Service, 63; Professor Adrian Harris, clinical oncologist, 46; Mr Leonard Lickorish, former Director-General, British Travel Association, 78; Mrs Barbara Mills QC, Director of Public Prosecutions, 56; Miss Kate O'Mara, actress, 57; Mr David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, 63; Lord Stewart, former government minister, 61; Mr Richard Unwin, novelist, 66; Mr Richard Wells, Chief Constable, South Yorkshire, 56; Miss Jane Wyatt, actress, 85.

## TOMORROW: Sir Bernard Ashley, hon life president, Laura Ashley, 70; Sir Richard Barrett, former Chief Inspector of Constabulary, 68; Mr Don Boyd, film director, 48; Sir Geoffrey Case, Chairman, Royal Shakespeare Company, 64; Miss Arlene Dahl, actress, 72; Mr Kenneth Eastham MP, 69; Mr James Eason, Lord-Lieutenant, County Borough of Londonderry, 69; Professor John Fincham, geneticist, 70; Professor Bob Hepple, Master of Clare College, Cambridge, 62; Professor Alan Hoddinott, composer, 67; Professor Derry Jeffares, English scholar, 76; Sir Aaron Klug, molecular biologist, 70; Dame Jean Lancaster, former director, WRNS, 67; Mr Raymond Lippard, conductor, 69; Miss Anna Massey, actress, 59; Admiral Sir Julian Oswald, former First Sea Lord and Chief of Naval Staff, 63; Miss Jean Parker, actress, 84; Sir Michael Quintan, director, Ditchley Foundation, 66; Dame Angela Rumbold MP, joint deputy chairman of the Conservative Party, 64; Mr Thomas Taffie, racehorse trainer, 63; The Right Rev James Thompson, Bishop of Bath and Wells, 66; Lord Varley, former government minister, 64.

## ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Changing of the Guard. TODAY: The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment will take the Life Guard to Horse Guards, 11am. The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment will take the Life Guard to Horse Guards, 11am. The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment will take the Life Guard to Horse Guards, 11am.

## Mystery, strangeness and life on Mars

## faith &amp; reason

Andrew Brown questions what the discovery of a Martian meteorite will teach us about the nature of the universe. Does it increase the credibility of Christianity?

Is an unmade, unfeeling universe odder or less credible than one which was made to pivot around an act of redemptive agony? There cannot be a good measure of improbability for what is, by definition, the only universe we've got. We can talk about how different the universe of observation turns out to be from the universe of common sense; but it is very difficult to argue that one or the other is more natural or more probable. This is a razor that cuts both ways. Christians who accept the scandal of particularity have no business arguing from the anthropic principle that a universe with life in it is so unlikely as to demand a maker.

In terms of modern myth, you could hardly improve on the news that a meteorite found in Antarctica has been found to contain traces of Martian bacteria.

For anyone who grew up after about 1940, this is a prophecy fulfilled. We can feel something of the same sense of the essential rightness of the universe as must have filled the Jehovah's Witnesses waiting for the apocalypse in the silly season of August 1914. Our pleasure, like theirs, is rendered all the more delicious by the vagueness of both prophecy and fulfillment. Whatever we expected the Martians to be, it was something more than a trace of chemicals inside in a rock. There is a wonderful inscrutability, a proper alienness, about such a sign from the universe. It may not make us alone, but it gives us no grounds to suppose that whatever may share the universe with us will turn out to be even comprehensible, let alone friendly.

This may seem to be something which increases the amount of mystery in the universe. But in one sense it will be understood by atheists to decrease the mystery of life. If life emerged on Mars, it will have done so by evolution from non-life. Life, to this extent, is robbed of its magic, and its need for a

special explanation. It is just something that happens according to the rules of a universe like ours, as gravity is, or electricity; and we don't think of those as mysteries. Perhaps we should: if I am honest, I am still puzzled that Australians don't fall off. I can understand it, and accept as true that they don't, but I can't visualise it. Still, the mystery drains away once the mysterious seems predictable. There is no very good reason for this vanishing act: a universe whose behaviour is predictable according to mathematical formulae is quite as odd as one carried on the back of a giant turtle, and a lot less like anything we can easily imagine.

The world are still living in the 19th and preceding centuries. So what would be a nice historical judgement - whether a Christianity fully assimilated to a modern world is really the same religion as was practised by the builders of great cathedrals - becomes a nasty problem of disputation. The ancient and modern forms of Christianity have to coexist; but both tend to be weakened by their struggle. Fundamentalism has not hated the world half as much as it has hated liberal Christianity; and this feeling more than reciprocated by the liberal world. For at least the last 50 years, fundamentalism has seemed to be gaining strength, and liberal religion dying. But if there is a doctrinal reason for the popularity of conservative religion then it is surely that it has preserved a sense of mystery and strangeness better than liberal mainstream Christianity has. It's easy and almost always right to mock demands for "explanation" or "relevance" from evangelists. But their instinct for excitement is surely right. The promise of vibrant religion, just as of real science, is that common sense is wrong about almost everything that matters - and that the earth may turn out to contain frozen threads of evidence for life on Mars.

سكنا من الاربعين







## British Gas clashes with Ofgas over competition

CHRIS GODSMARK  
Business Correspondent

Another row is brewing between British Gas and the industry regulator, this time over moves to bring forward the introduction of the next stage of domestic competition, due to start in April 1997.

Ofgas is pushing to speed up the second phase in the development of the residential gas market, which would extend competition to 1.5 million homes across the south of England, to a new date in January.

Ofgas hopes to publish a consultation paper on the proposals at the end of this month, but has already held talks with TransCo, the British Gas pipeline business.

The move is believed to be

TransCo's revenues next year by between 20 and 28 per cent, reducing average bills by around £30 a year. British Gas said it would have to cut 10,000 jobs to fund the cuts, which it has described as the "the biggest smash and grab raid in history."

The head of Ofgas, Clare Spottiswoode, returns from holiday on Monday to face a meeting with British Gas as the company makes one final attempt to get her to water down the proposals. Publication of the final formula has already been delayed until "mid-August", though one industry source suggested they could be delayed beyond next week.

To prepare for domestic competition, TransCo has developed one of the world's largest computer databases to track customers as they leave British Gas Trading, the gas supply arm of British Gas, for rival suppliers. In the first phase, which began in May with 500,000 customers in Devon and Cornwall, around 12 per cent of households switched from British Gas.

However, several problems occurred, including some ex-British customers having hundreds of pounds accidentally debited from their bank accounts when they moved from the company.

The next stage, to extend competition to the whole of the south apart from Greater London, was originally due to take place next April, with the rest of the country included in April 1998. However, Ofgas said yesterday: "The inclination is now to do something earlier in the year. The most likely new date would be 27 January."

Several independent suppliers have said they are keen to start supplying gas in the region sooner. One company, Total Gas, has already begun marketing in Kent and Bristol.

Meanwhile another argument came to a head yesterday between TransCo and independent gas suppliers over the rules governing the way different firms use the pipeline infrastructure.

Suppliers must match the amount of gas they put in the system with the amount of gas used by customers. From next month these forecasts must balance daily, rather than monthly, or the firms could face severe financial penalties.

British Gas's rivals have complained that information from metering systems, which comes via TransCo, is not accurate enough to forecast daily demand. Ofgas said it would announce proposals on the issue on Monday. But yesterday one independent supplier said if the problems were not sorted out before September, it may have to challenge its contracts with TransCo in court.



Clare Spottiswoode: Back from holiday for a meeting

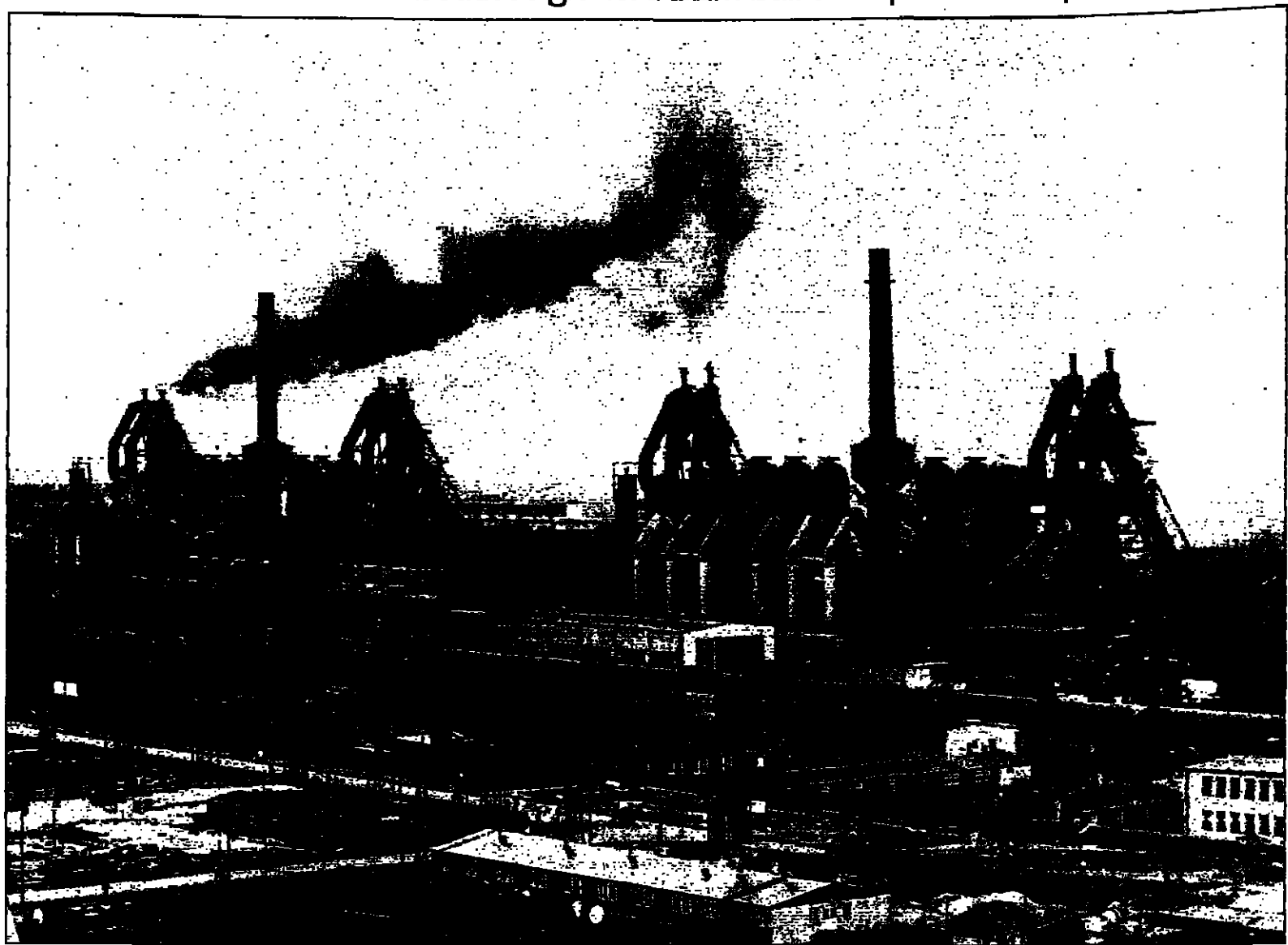
popular with government ministers, who hope to provide crucial voters in the South with cheaper gas bills.

But TransCo wants to spread the process over several months. Instead of an initial "big bang" on 1 April, its preferred option is to introduce competition over a six-month period, taking each postcode area at a time. A spokesman said: "We see the value of some form of phasing over the first half of the year. We are concerned at what might be an over-hasty approach that could put customers off."

The Gas Consumers Council also prefers a step-by-step approach to competition, but such a move would mean many homes would not have the chance of cheaper bills from rival suppliers to British Gas before the general election, which must take place by next May.

The latest dispute comes as British Gas waits for Ofgas to reveal its contentious final price controls for the pipeline business. The company has campaigned vociferously against the proposals, which would cut

## German steel scandal: Executives granted £1m bail after police swoop in Düsseldorf



Under a cloud: Thyssen arrests have been linked to the purchase of steel mills in the former East Germany

NIC CICUTTI  
and ELIZABETH KLEIN

The chairman of Thyssen, Dieter Vogel, and nine other senior executives at the German steel giant have been arrested in a series of police raids linked to £30m fraud over an east German metals trading company.

Detectives searched the homes of several of the arrested men, including Mr Vogel, together with Thyssen's head office in Düsseldorf, for evidence linked to the alleged fraud. Other offices throughout Germany were sealed by police officers and will be searched later.

By late last night, nine of the arrested men, including Mr Vogel, had been released on bail of up to £1m. Mr Vogel appeared briefly before a court in Düsseldorf, where charges were read out.

Shares in Thyssen fell by more than 2 per cent to DM262.2 on the Frankfurt exchange on news of the arrests.

## 10 Thyssen bosses held over £30m metals fraud

They follow an investigation into Metallurgiehandel, an eastern German metals company bought by Thyssen after German reunification in 1990. Prosecutors allege both that managers at Thyssen took DM37.8m (£15m) from Metallurgiehandel when it was sold and that a further DM32.2m of damages was caused by manipulating the company's accounts.

Among the other arrests are former Thyssen chairman Heinrich Kersten, and directors Josef von Riedere and Hans Ulrich Gruber.

Berlin prosecutors have been investigating whether Thyssen defrauded the Treuhand privatisation agency in charge of privatising eastern German enterprises.

A separate investigation was launched in 1993 and shelved after Thyssen paid compensation worth £5m to Treuhand.

Analysts yesterday said the arrests were a fall-out from the kind of free-wheeling deal typical in the heady days just after German reunification in 1990.

The case is similar to that of Bremer Vulkan, the biggest German shipbuilder. Bremer Vulkan sank after allegedly covering losses at its Western operations by siphoning off public subsidies earmarked to refurbish its eastern German wharves.

The giant steel-maker said in a statement: "The action of the state prosecutor is incomprehensible. There have been no new facts or evidence since the case was suspended in October 1993."

The company said the arrests had allegedly been made to ensure the managers concerned could not flee the country. "But the fact that most of those concerned interrupted their holidays to make themselves available for questioning means that the fears are absurd."

Thyssen added that it would fight the charges with all legal means at its disposal.

The company was indirectly backed by Treuhand, which it allegedly defrauded. A spokesman said: "The case is effectively closed for us."

In 1990, as the Treuhand strove to maintain jobs while selling off state-run enterprises in the formerly communist east, it acted hastily to strike deals with buyers in the interest of protecting jobs.

Treuhand contacted Thyssen in December 1990 to break up Metallurgiehandel, the eastern German state monopoly that controlled foreign trade of metal products.

Like shipbuilder Bremer Vulkan, but on a much smaller scale, Thyssen may have gone too far in trying to squeeze the best deal out of its acquisition of Metallurgiehandel.

"Everybody was trying to shelter themselves from losses," said Olaf Toelke, an analyst at Merrill Lynch.

"They paid little for companies, sometimes only a token price of one mark, but they guaranteed employment."

## Somerfield shares show early sparkle

NIGEL COPE

Shares in Somerfield, the supermarket group, rose to a 14p premium on their first day of dealings yesterday though some of the company's original debt holders expressed displeasure over the handling of the flotation.

The shares, which were priced at 145p, shot to 162p in heavy early trading before settling down to close at 159p. There were trades as high as 165p, a

full 20p above the issue price. "It's about where we thought it would be but I still think it will go to around 180p in the medium term," one analyst said.

Some of the debt holders in the original Isosceles parent company said they were unimpressed with the flotation which saw two price cuts and a last-ditch attempt by the advisers Kleinwort Benson to sell Somerfield, Britain's fifth biggest food retailer, to rival supermarket groups last week.

"We're not very happy and I think it was mishandled," one of the former debt holders said. "But having said that, the senior debt holders signed an agreement earlier this year agreeing to a minimum they would accept from the flotation. The proceeds cover that minimum."

Another debt holder said it was "displeased" with the flotation, but said it would not be filing any litigation against Kleinwort Benson, the German-owned investment

bank, for selling the business too cheaply.

Another Isosceles debt holder said that any litigation might come from US investors such as the holders of junior debt and deep discount bonds who did not receive full repayment. However, the debt holder thought law suits were unlikely. "They all played the game and most of them have made some money trading the debt along the way."

Somerfield's chief executive, David Simons, was more positive: "I'm absolutely delighted that Somerfield is an independent company and we can get on with expanding the business."

He refused to comment on Kleinwort Benson's handling of the issue, which was the largest non-privatisation flotation of the year.

Somerfield blamed weak stock market conditions and a profits warning from Iceland, its rival food retailer, for cutting the offer price twice in the run-up to the flotation.

## Names claim support of US action group

JOHN WILLCOCK

A Lloyd's of London investor action group, which has launched a last-ditch legal challenge to the insurance market's recovery plan, yesterday claimed to have won the support of a US action group.

The Paying Names Action Group (PNAG) said that the American Names' Association (ANA) has advised its members to support PNAG in applying for a judicial review of Lloyd's reconstruction and renewal plan.

PNAG has said it has about 3,000 members, but industry sources reckon this may be an overstatement since official documents issued ahead of the review indicated it had under 1,300 members.

The ANA claims to represent around 500 of the 3,000 names. This group has opposed the recovery plan for some time.

"I am very pleased to have support in our efforts to redress the balance of fairness in Lloyd's current R&R offer," said the PNAG chairman, Tony

Welford, who has led this latest legal challenge.

The case is due to be heard in the High Court on Monday and comes as the 33,500 Names at Lloyd's decide whether to support the plan and pay final bills to reinsure billions of pounds of liabilities into a new company Equitas.

PNAG believes the recovery plan is unfair to names who have continued to meet cash calls from Lloyd's and trade on in the market after 1992 - the cut-off for reinsurance into Equitas.

David Rowland, the Lloyd's chairman, has written to names, in a letter dated 8 August, reiterating his "regret" that PNAG has proceeded to apply for a judicial review.

He repeated that Lloyd's could not improve further on a £3.2m settlement offer to names. Lloyd's plans to send further details to names on Monday.

They will receive a breakdown of how personal stop loss policies have affected their final bills and learn the size of their funds at Lloyd's as of 12 July - assets they have pledged

in backing business underwritten at the market.

The Association of Lloyd's Members plans to release on Monday a report from solicitors Wilde Clements, expected to back key elements of the recovery plan including Equitas.

Rebel names are furious that, having shouldered years of losses due to asbestos claims and the like, they will be left out in the cold by the settlement. Names have until 28 August to accept or reject the settlement offer and until 30 September to pay final bills.



David Rowland: Expressed regret at names' litigation

## Franc sinks on EMU fears

JOHN WILLCOCK

The French franc came under renewed pressure yesterday as rumours flew around dealing desks that France would fail to meet the criteria for European monetary union on time.

Institutions switched assets into mark bonds, which are seen as a safe haven in times of uncertainty, particularly when EMU looks vulnerable.

Large foreign sell orders forced the franc to a new four-month low of 3.4180 against the mark yesterday. Anti-franc sentiment was fanned by a number of rumours - that the French Prime Minister Alain Juppe might resign; and that the Governor of the Banque de France, Jean-Claude Trichet, might be investigated over a past banking scandal.

There was intense speculation in Paris that a government move to prosecute former bosses of state-owned bank Crédit Lyonnais might tar Mr Trichet.

Finance Minister Jean Arthuis said on Thursday he was seeking the prosecution of former bosses at Crédit Lyonnais on the basis of fresh information on losses which drove the state-owned bank to the brink of bankruptcy.

This comes on top of a nationwide debate on whether France should stick to attaining the Maastricht criteria for EMU by 1999, or cut interest rates and go for growth.

Single currency aspirants must hold their budget deficits at or below 3 per cent of gross domestic product to qualify for a European monetary union on time on 1 January 1999. Members are to be selected in early 1998 on the basis of 1997 data.

On the political front, as director of the Treasury which Credit Lyonnais made some of the largest losses in French corporate history, Mr Trichet was in charge of supervising the state-owned banks. He says he was the first to alert the government to the problems, calling for an investigation in a letter in October 1991.

Never the less, French newspapers saw the prosecution call partly as an attempt by President Jacques Chirac to destabilise or humble Mr Trichet, whose caution in cutting interest rates was criticised by the President last month.

Conservative government supporters want to stimulate a stagnant economy in time for 1998 parliamentary elections and blame Mr Trichet's orthodoxy for record unemployment.

STOCK MARKETS									
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996 High	1996 Low	Yield (%)	Index	Close	Day's change
FTSE 100	3810.70	-0.70	-0.0	3857.10	3632.30	4.10	Nikkei	22200	-100
FTSE 250	4324.50	+5.80	+0.1	4568.60	4015.30	3.49			
FTSE 350	1907.30	+0.30	+0.0	1945.40	1816.50	3.97			
FT Small Cap	2121.04	+2.41	+0.1	2244.38	1964.06	3.12			
FT All Share	1884.86	+0.43	+0.0	1924.17	1781.95	3.91			
New York	5711.64	-1.85	-0.0	5778.00	5032.94	2.20			
Tokyo	20551.05	-180.26	-0.9	22666.80	19734.70	0.781			
Hong Kong	11104.03	-60.33	-0.5	11594.99	10204.87	3.441			
Frankfurt	2525.64	-12.51	-0.5	2583.49	2253.36	1.801			

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES									
Short sterling	UK medium gilt	US long bond	Money Market Rates	Bond Yields	1 Month	3 Month	6 Month	1 Year	Long Term
UK	5.75	6.00	7.75	8.08	7.90	8.16			
US	5.34	5.81	6.45	6.61	6.73	6.98			
Japan	0.38	0.84	3.20	3.09					
Germany	3.28	3.44	6.27	6.73	6.98				

CURRENCIES									
\$/S	\$/DM	\$/Y	Pound	Yesterday	Change	Year Ago	Dollar	Yesterday	Change
\$ (London)	1.5495	-0.01c	1.4773				\$ (London)	0.8454	+0.01
\$ (NY)	1.5485	-0.05c	1.5720				\$ (NY)	0.8454	+0.02
DM (London)	2.2497	-0.97p	2.2608				DM (London)	1.4784	-0.61p
Y (London)	167.624	-10.089	167.872				Y (London)	108.115	-10.05
£ Index	84.6	-0.2	84.4				£ Index	95.1	-0.1

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# business

## A monstrous brewing deal we will all regret

**JEREMY WARNER**

The evidence is overwhelmingly that market concentration on this scale is bad for the consumer, bad for small competitors, and bad for employment and diversity

Another monstrous brewing merger is about to be unveiled, and like the last one - that between Scottish & Newcastle and Courage - there is every chance of the Government waiving its through with little more than a murmur of protest. The deal should have been announced yesterday but, as has happened so often before in this long-mooted takeover, there was a last-minute hitch.

What is proposed is that Bass acquire Carlsberg-Tetley, itself the result of a merger in the early 1990s between the UK brewing interests of Allied Domecq and Carlsberg of Denmark. For Carlsberg the deal with Allied proved nothing short of disastrous. Carlsberg-Tetley doesn't make any money, despite a relatively large share of the market. Bass offers Carlsberg the possibility of salvation - a minority stake in what would become Britain's largest brewing operation by far, and a highly profitable one at that. Allied, too, needs to get out of this albatross. If they were honest about it, the other big players might welcome the deal as well for it offers the prospect of brewery closures, less competition, firmer beer prices and a period of upheaval at Bass in which to win market share.

For the rest of us, however, and for the legion of small brewers which these islands thankfully still supports, this deal is a bad thing and should be fought. Bass is already

the second-largest brewer in the UK with about 25 per cent of the market. Most of us would think that already too large. With this deal, Bass would leapfrog S&N with about 30 per cent of the market to take something approaching 40 per cent. With 70 per cent of the market accounted for by just two players, and half of the rest by a third, Whitbread, the others are not going to stand a chance. Slowly, but surely, they will be squeezed out of business.

As I understand it, the case for the merger goes something like this. Carlsberg-Tetley loses money. A Bass takeover would be a less painful way of carrying out the necessary rationalisation. To leave it struggling on alone would merely be to sentence it to prolonged death by a thousand knives. Furthermore, since the Government has already allowed S&N to do something similar, it would be oppressive and discriminatory to stop Bass.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, might find some merit in these arguments, but I'm blown if I can. The evidence is overwhelmingly that market concentration on this scale is bad for the consumer, bad for small competitors, bad for employment and bad for diversity. Since Australia allowed its six brewers to merge into two in the 1980s, beer prices have never looked south and consumer choice has suffered abominably. It is no accident that beer prices in Scotland,

where there is an effective duopoly, are so much higher than they are in the North of England and the Midlands. Carlsberg should be forced to resort to its fall-back plan - buying out Allied and trying to make a go out of this bombed out and deeply demoralised company.

### Is the City on Target for the euro's launch?

For most people, the debate now raging over access to Europe's new "target" system for interbank transactions in euros must seem about as relevant as a 10-bob note. Unless you are a reader of the *Financial Times* and the *Economist*, whose arcane columns have been banging on about this for some months, you would scarcely have noticed it at all. Yet among central bankers, better informed politicians, and forward thinking commercial bankers, it seems to have become a matter of some importance.

At this stage, it is hard to tell whether these matters are actually going to mean much for London's foreign exchange markets or not. About the most that can be said with any certainty is that they might do. The issue has none the less assumed a symbolic significance, one that characterises the divide between those who are committed to

the single European currency and expect to be in it two years hence, and those like ourselves who are more likely to be out.

Target - the acronym for Trans-European Automated Real-time Gross Settlement Express Transfer - promises to be more than just a settlement system for transactions in the new single currency. It is also the mechanism through which the European central bank will pursue monetary policy. Interest rates will, in part, be set through the liquidity that the central bank provides to facilitate large-scale interbank transactions in the euro.

This all sounds like deeply technical stuff, but the point at issue can be distilled into something relatively simple. The French and the Germans, who will form the core of the new currency union, believe that their own banks should get more favourable liquidity terms than those operating among the outs. Why, they say with some justification, should the outs get all the benefits of the euro while not having to abide by its disciplines?

There is a subtlety here, of course, which goes beyond the old debate over a two-speed Europe. Britain has the largest foreign exchange markets in the world. Frankfurt and Paris are both jealous and suspicious of this position at the same time. The idea that the main market in the euro could actually be in London, where the new currency won't even buy a pint of beer, is anathema to them. If

they can disadvantage the Anglo-Saxon speculators of the City, so much the better. I've no idea who is going to win this battle. The Bank of England is naturally in there battling for Britain at tortuous negotiations taking place under the auspices of the European Monetary Institute. But the wicket is a sticky one given Britain's ever more stand-offish position in Europe.

Does it really matter if the battle is lost? My own view is that it probably doesn't. Markets these days are global and the City is an ingenious and innovative player in these things. The idea that euro trading will gravitate to Frankfurt and Paris simply because the European central bank offers them advantageous terms of access to Target doesn't strike me as a very credible one. If the European central bank discriminates, somehow or other the City will find a way of bypassing it.

This is not to say that European monetary policy will be determined by Anglo-Saxon speculators, but one way or another they will continue to have their say. The London Investment Banking Association is surely right to warn of lack of preparation in the City for the advent of the euro. But I suspect the City will be just as capable of holding its own in the new euro markets as it is now when it comes to trading in the French franc and German mark.

## Restructuring sets Unilever back £108m

**JOHN WILLCOCK**

Unilever took a £108m restructuring hit in the second quarter which included its acquisition of a US shampoo maker, and another £7m from falling meat sales due to the mad cow disease scare.

Despite disappointing results at the bottom of expectations the City kept faith with the Anglo-Dutch food giant's recent purchase of the US-based Helene Curtis shampoo group, and Unilever's shares closed at 1.243p, down just 6p.

Recent results from similar groups such as Procter & Gamble have pointed up the near-zero growth in Continental European demand, and against this Unilever's overall sales growth of 8 per cent to £16.5bn was welcomed by analysts.

The pre-tax profit figure emerged 6 per cent lower than last time at £617m, at the bottom end of City forecasts, due to the slightly larger-than-expected restructuring charge.

Analysts also pooch-pooled the perennial rumours that Unilever might seek to live up its growth rate by buying confectionery and soft drinks giant

Cadbury Schweppes. The rumour was re-ignited by Cadbury's sale on Thursday of a US business, but John Campbell of Paribas Capital Markets said Cadbury's market share was not big enough for Unilever's needs.

"In reality Cadbury is number three world-wide in soft drinks and number four in confectionery. Unilever wants a business in the number one or two spot, if it's going to compete with the likes of Nestlé and Philip Morris."

The BSE scare had already forced Unilever to write off £15m in the first quarter as sales of Birds Eye Beef Burgers and other meat products dipped, particularly on the Continent. But the company had already started a strategic move away from meats towards sauces.

A Unilever spokesman said: "The continued effect of BSE is a little sad. We had a further £7m write-off in the second quarter which brings the total for the half-year to £21m. Consumer confidence is still being unnerved by the continuing debate over the BSE issue."

He said there had been some recovery in meats in the UK but

not back up to pre-BSE levels, although that had been somewhat offset by improved sales of white meats such as chicken. In Europe overall sales were flat. Underlying margins improved further in personal care products and in Unilever's food business.

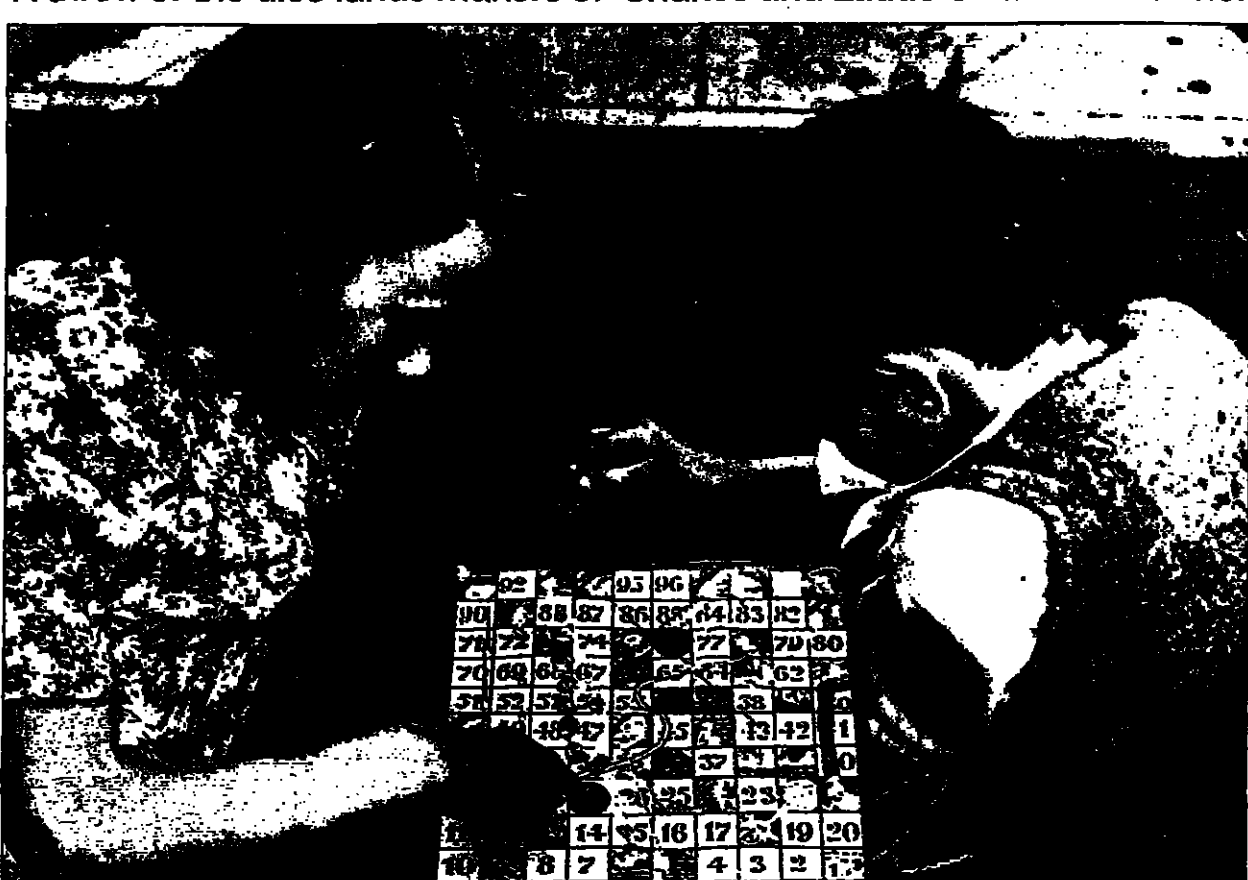
This was achieved through cost reductions and changes to the portfolio as the company sold low-margin businesses, mainly in meat, Unilever said.

The City's eyes are firmly on the autumn when Niall Fitzgerald takes over as chairman from Sir Michael Perry. Mr Fitzgerald is expected to redirect the business towards emerging markets, and brands where the company can build better growth. Not that Sir Michael has been idle on the corporate front. Unilever bought 24 businesses since Christmas and sold another 15.

Trading profits from Europe were £407m in the second quarter, little changed from £403m previously. Overall operating margins in Europe were flat at 9.3 per cent.

Unilever added that trading remained difficult in both France and Germany.

### A throw of the dice lands makers of 'Snakes and Ladders' with new owner



Crown Products Group, the Aim-listed leisure group has expanded its interests in the supply of adventure playgrounds to leisure centres and retailers with two more acquisitions, writes Nigel Cope.

It has acquired Snakes and Ladders, which manages venture playground facilities, and Yorkshire Playgrounds, which installs and runs themed leisure facilities. With the purchase of Snakes and Ladders, Crown says that it has secured the services of its managing director, David Griffiths. Mr Griffiths was previously the chief executive of Wembley Stadium and the Queen Elizabeth Jubilee Sports Centre, Hong Kong.

The deal has been struck on an earn-out basis which will be calculated as a maximum of twice profits before tax in the third year.

Crown said the acquisition of Yorkshire Playgrounds will also be paid by way of an earn-out calculation over one year. Crown is taking advantage of the

increasing number of leisure centres and retailers keen to offer a diversion to younger children.

Crown came to the Alternative Investment Market last December after acquiring a fine art stationery group. It is also distributing a range of arts and craft products based on Walt Disney characters. In June the company completed its fifth acquisition when it acquired RGM Originals, a greetings card specialist.

## Cardcast in talks over merger

**NIC CICUTTI**

Two of Britain's top suppliers of card payment and fraud prevention services, Card Clear and Cardcast, yesterday confirmed they are in merger talks aimed at expanding their combined services into Europe.

Both organisations hope to complete their talks within the next few months, with a merger based on a share-for-share offer by Card Clear for Cardcast.

Graham Hooley, managing director at Cardcast, said yesterday: "The directors of both companies believe these discussions, should they go ahead, will be in the best interests of all shareholders and customers."

The merger between both organisations forms part of the continuing war, waged by banks and scores of other issuers, including stores and petrol companies, against card fraud, thought to cost hundreds of millions of pounds each year.

Both Card Clear and Cardcast operate on the basis of similar technology, whereby they receive details of stolen or lost cards from issuers and use technology to transmit this information to points of sale in which these cards are likely to be used. If a stolen card is used, the equipment supplied to the store or other point of sale will detect its use. The two companies are almost unique in the UK the manner in which they provide their services.

Cardcast, which was first set up in 1990, achieved an Aim listing in April this year. The company, which employs 15 staff in Byfleet, Kent, has a market capitalisation of more than £14m.

It has contracts with a range of companies, including Tesco, Asda, BP and Shell, covering some 22,000 points of sale in the UK.

Card Clear, which listed on Aim last year, employs 12 staff in nearby Westworth. Worth an estimated £20m, it made first-half profits of £204,000 on a turnover of £904,000.

The company has recently signed deals with Mobil and Argos and its systems cover some 3,000 points of sale. A Card Clear spokeswoman said that while expansion into Europe was an important aim, the ability for any organisation to cover more points of sale in the UK was also important.

### IN BRIEF

• **Boosey & Hawkes**, the music group, has claimed victory in its legal dispute with Walt Disney over the copyright to Igor Stravinsky's *The Rite of Spring*. The company said a US court has found in its favour in the dispute, arising out of Disney's distribution of video cassettes and video discs of the *Fantasia* film, which includes music from *The Rite of Spring*. The court ruled in favour of B&H on the principal issue in the case, holding that distribution rights granted to Disney by Stravinsky at the time of making the motion picture *Fantasia* in 1939 did not include the right to distribute *Fantasia* videos. Boosey & Hawkes said B&H acquired the rights to the music in 1947. B&H said it is taking advice as to how to proceed in claiming compensation.

• **Producer prices** in the US were unchanged in July, the Labor Department said. On a year-on-year basis, producer prices were up 2.6 per cent. The core rate, which excludes food and energy prices, was up 1.5 per cent year-on-year. For the first seven months of 1996 producer prices were up 1.9 per cent compared with a 1.2 per cent rise a year earlier.

• **Glasgow Wellcome** said it had received approval from the US Food and Drug Administration to market its Tritec tablets in combination with clarithromycin for the treatment of active duodenal ulcers associated with *Helicobacter pylori* infection. *Helicobacter pylori* is a bacterium that is the main cause of peptic ulcers and has also been linked to gastric cancer. Tests using the two treatments in combination have shown that they achieve strong eradication rates with a low risk of ulcer re-occurrence. The FDA first recommended Tritec's US approval in December, 1995. Tritec has been marketed in Britain since September, 1995, and has been approved in other markets such as Italy and New Zealand.

• **The all-German consumer price index** rose by 0.3 per cent in July against the previous month and annual inflation edged up to 1.6 per cent, the Federal Statistics Office said. Year-on-year price growth picked up from June's 0.1 per cent monthly rise and price growth since January, which was the smallest rise since annual 1.4 per cent increase, which was the smallest rise since 15 months after unification. Strongest price increases were registered in the west for personal equipment and other goods, due to seasonal hikes for package tours and hotel accommodation. Energy prices were also pushed up by an increase in the cost of heating oil.

• **London & Edinburgh Publishing**, a publisher of souvenir guides for top sporting events such as the Derby and the Grand National, for top sporting events such as the Derby and the Grand National, is joining the AIM market next week with a price tag of £3.05m. The flotation involves an institutional placing of around 13.9 million shares at 10p each, raising £1.25m. The shares will start trading on a forward p/e ratio of 7.6 and a yield of 3.6 per cent.

• **Docks de France**, facing a hostile takeover by rival French supermarket group Auchan, said second-quarter sales fell 1.25 per cent to FF11.82bn (£1.5bn). No reason was given for the decline. Sales were FF23.1bn in the first half, up 2.9 per cent from a year earlier, according to an announcement in the official bulletin.

• **Fresenius**, the German medical products group, reported a 32 per cent rise in net profits to DM85m (£37m) at the group level, and said it planned to continue growing abroad. Particular growth areas will be Asia and Latin America. Earlier this year, Fresenius said it would acquire a 55.2 per cent stake in US-based WR Grace's National Medical Care unit for \$2.3bn (£1.5bn) in cash, forming the world's largest dialysis company.

## BBC launches transmission services sale



John Birt: Sell-off consistent with BBC chiefs' shake-up

**MATHEW HORSMAN**  
Media Editor

The sell-off of the BBC's transmission services, worth up to £250m, was finally launched yesterday, with as many as a dozen confidential sales memoranda sent out to a list of potential bidders.

The BBC and its advisers, Lehman Brothers, declined to comment on its contents, but it is understood the sale will include 500 transmitters in the UK, all transmission and receiving equipment at the sites and the Warwick headquarters.

The sale is seen by many as a first step toward restructuring the BBC's sprawling operations, and is consistent with a management shake-up announced by John Birt, the corporation's activist director general, early this summer.

As reported in the *Independent* this week, the BBC's extensive communications network, including lines between the corporation's London head office and studios in the North, will not be part of the package put up for sale.

The transmission operations will be sold in two parts - the first covering the BBC's domestic television and radio services and the second incorporating equipment and services associated with the World Service, which is financed separately by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Companies will be free to bid for both, but will be required to submit separate offers. The Government will receive the proceeds from the World Service sale, while the BBC will retain the full return from the domestic operations.

The seven World Service transmitters abroad, including a new facility in Thailand, will not be sold. For reasons sources said were "diplomatic rather than commercial", the successful buyer of the World Service transmission operations will retain a contract to service the overseas sites. In the UK, three of four World Service transmitters are to be sold. The fourth, in Orfordness, is owned by the FCO outright, and will not be sold.

The domestic operations will be sold on the condition that both BBC1 and BBC2 will be transmitted under contract for 10 years. In addition, the BBC's analogue radio, as well as its first-generation digital radio, will also be provided by the eventual buyer.

The service is to be guaranteed as to quality and price, and

the BBC may also be in line to share in any savings achieved by the new owners within a set time frame.

Among the likely bidders for the service is NTL, the US-owned company that provides transmission services for ITV and Channel 4. The company declined to confirm yesterday that it had registered to receive the sales memorandum.

However, a spokesman said: "It has always been our intention to acquire the BBC transmission services, which we believe that we could run efficiently."

NTL, formerly state-owned, was privatised four years ago, and sold to a consortium led by Mercury Asset Management. It was sold to International CableTel, the US-based cable operator with extensive UK interests, earlier this year.

## Kenwood shares hit by profits warning

Shares in Kenwood tested their all-time low yesterday after the kitchen appliances group warned shareholders at their annual meeting that results for the first half would fall short of the same period last year.

Kenwood chairman Harold Mourgue told investors that difficult trading conditions in Europe, combined with a continuing tendency for the core business to be "more second-half weighted", were responsible for the shortfall.

But with new products due to be launched in the second half and the prospect of improved conditions in Europe, Mr Mourgue said Kenwood remained confident about the outcome for the full year.

He added that trading in the UK continued to show improvement on last year "with a good uplift in turnover" but

pricing and changes in product mix "continue to put margins under pressure".

The news caused Kenwood's shares to ease 12.5p to 195.5p, a whisker above their record low of 189p a fortnight ago.

Floated at 285p four years ago, the shares have struggled to perform against the backdrop of sluggish consumer spending, high raw material prices and competition from the Far East.

Kenwood's fall from grace began two years ago with the rights issue-funded acquisition of Ariete, an Italian appliance maker, which has led to rising debt levels.

Sentiment towards the stock has also been affected by talk of another paper-funded acquisition. Last year Kenwood lost its chief executive, Tim Parker, to the privately run shoes group, C & J Clark.

## CLASSIFIED

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## market report/shares

## DATA BANK

FT-SE 100

3810.7 -0.7

FT-SE 250

4324.5 +5.9

FT-SE 350

1907.3 +0.3

SEAQ VOLUME

525.1m shares,

30,719 bargains

Gifts Index

9.18 -0.06

## SHARE SPOTLIGHT

share price, pence

520

500

480

460

440

420

400

380

360

340

320

F M A M J J A

## BP strikes new heights as crude price inspires oil firms

## TAKING STOCK

## MARKET REPORT

## DEREK PAIN

Stock market reporter

of the year

British Petroleum, only four years ago bumping along at a miserable 187p, flared 9.5p to a peak of 613.5p.

US buying was thought to be responsible for the display of strength. Figures earlier this week were said to be the main influence although the firmness of the crude price was clearly an influence.

The shares are the cheapest of the international oil giants. And their appeal is strengthened by the prospect of sharp dividend increases and a possible share buyback within the next year.

Other oils drew strength from the crude performance which ignored the growing prospect of Iraq commencing exports in the next few weeks following the UN Sanctions Committee's adoption of the oil-for-food requirements.

Burmah, helped by an overnight American buying order, added 22p to 1,020p

and Enterprise Oil improved 7p to 488p.

Encouraged by the bubbling oil display, the rest of the stock market staged a late bid to make it eight wins in a row. It just failed to achieve such a remarkable sequence, last managed three years ago.

The FT-SE 100 index finished only 0.7 points down at 3,810.7 after 3,793.9. Trading was again thin with most investors, big and small, content to bide their time.

BSkyB, the satellite television station, broke through the 500p barrier for the first time, gaining 8p to 507p. James Capel and Barclays de Zoete Wedd made buy signals. Year's figures are due later this month with a near £100m gain to £250m expected.

BT was little changed at 376p after a strong display this week. The shares have responded positively to the group's grudging acceptance of

the latest Ofel proposals which allow it to avoid a distracting and potentially damaging referral to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

New issue Southerfield, the supermarket chain, managed to cast a little embarrassment in the direction of its advisers, Kleinwort Benson, touching 163p and closing at 159p in busy trading. Kleinwort was twice forced to lower the flotation price, eventually settling on 145p.

Kwik Save fell 9p to 415p. Shares of the discount group are regarded as the most likely casualty of Southerfield which is on a much lower rating and could be expected to attract switching from Kwik Save.

Hanson's rally continued with the price edging ahead to 168.5p. But BTR was stuck at its warrants exercise level, unchanged at 258p.

Reports of a cable merger between Nyx and Telewest created a fission of excitement. The theory is the hard pressed cable companies believe the disappointment at the poor reception they have received would be eased if they pooled their resources. It was enough to lift Nyx 5p to 93p and Telewest 3p to 142p. Nyx has been as high as 147p in the past year; Telewest touched 195p.

Cardcast and Card Clear, involved in card payment and fraud prevention, confirmed

they were actually talking merger. Card Clear, 5p firmer at 43p, is expected to make a share exchange offer for Cardcast, up 5p to 88p.

After Thursday's blurb of excitement, insurances came down to earth with United Friendly off 34p to 805p and its proposed partner, Refuge, down a further 15p to 393p. London & Manchester fell 15p to 366p and Britannic 22p to 741p.

Boosey & Hawkes ended the week on a high note. The shares jumped 68p to 798p after a US court ruled in B&H's favour in its dispute with Disney over the copyright for the *Fantasia* video. Earlier this week the company paid £17.9m for a reed maker. On Monday the shares were 665p.

Ladbrokes was the best performing blue chip as takeover speculation returned. The shares centered 4.5p to 197p in brisk trading. A deal with

Hilton Hotels Corporation is still the market's favourite bet with Bass expected to be pre-occupied with Carlsberg Tetley and out of the running.

British Steel fell 3.5p to 178.5p as SBC Warburg remained negative and James Capel cautioned lowered Leases Industries 2p to 231p.

Pan Andean Resources Bolivian oil hopes lifted the shares 7p to a 123p peak and African Gold, also from the John Teeling stable, improved 2p to 17p.

AG, a maker of reels for the storage of cables and ropes, firmed to 157p on Williams de Broe support. Profits are expected to have risen nearly £500,000 to £3.5m in the year just ended with £4m likely this year.

Cowie, the transport group, was little changed at 367p despite a buy note from Wise Speke suggesting the share could hit 450p in the next year.

JAIM's only Nasdaq share, Electronic Retailing Systems, is enjoying a spectacular run this month. The US supplier of electronic shelf labelling systems arrived at 145p when Henderson Crosthwaite placed shares to raise £7.7m. After a subdued few weeks the shares have come to life and yesterday jumped 25p to 198p. The group's products allow price changes and stock information to be transmitted between the shelf and a store's central computer.

Stories persist Whitbread has another significant takeover bid on its menu. The leisure giant is in the process of paying £133m for the Pelican restaurant chain and there is talk it could descend on Harry Ramsden's, the famous fish and chip chain with a market capitalisation of £33m. Ramsden's rose 10p to 380p.

## Alcoholic Beverages

Share	Price	Chg	%
Adnams	1,020	+22	+2.2
Brewery	1,020	+22	+2.2
Carlsberg	1,020	+22	+2.2
Heineken	1,020	+22	+2.2
Johnnie Walker	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2

## Banks, Merchant

Share	Price	Chg	%
Barclays	1,020	+22	+2.2
HSBC	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2

## Banks, Retail

Share	Price	Chg	%
Barclays	1,020	+22	+2.2
HSBC	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2

## Breweries, Pubs &amp; Rest

Share	Price	Chg	%
Adnams	1,020	+22	+2.2
Brewery	1,020	+22	+2.2
Carlsberg	1,020	+22	+2.2
Heineken	1,020	+22	+2.2
Johnnie Walker	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2

## Diversified Industrials

Share	Price	Chg	%
Adnams	1,020	+22	+2.2
Brewery	1,020	+22	+2.2
Carlsberg	1,020	+22	+2.2
Heineken	1,020	+22	+2.2
Johnnie Walker	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2

## Engineering Vehicles

Share	Price	Chg	%
Adnams	1,020	+22	+2.2
Brewery	1,020	+22	+2.2
Carlsberg	1,020	+22	+2.2
Heineken	1,020	+22	+2.2
Johnnie Walker	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2

## Extractive Industries

Share	Price	Chg	%
Adnams	1,020	+22	+2.2
Brewery	1,020	+22	+2.2
Carlsberg	1,020	+22	+2.2
Heineken	1,020	+22	+2.2
Johnnie Walker	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2

## Food Manufacturers

Share	Price	Chg	%
Adnams	1,020	+22	+2.2
Brewery	1,020	+22	+2.2
Carlsberg	1,020	+22	+2.2
Heineken	1,020	+22	+2.2
Johnnie Walker	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2

## Food Distribution

Share	Price	Chg	%
Adnams	1,020	+22	+2.2
Brewery	1,020	+22	+2.2
Carlsberg	1,020	+22	+2.2
Heineken	1,020	+22	+2.2
Johnnie Walker	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2

## Health Care

Share	Price	Chg	%
Adnams	1,020	+22	+2.2
Brewery	1,020	+22	+2.2
Carlsberg	1,020	+22	+2.2
Heineken	1,020	+22	+2.2
Johnnie Walker	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2

## Index-linked

Share	Price	Chg	%
Adnams	1,020	+22	+2.2
Brewery	1,020	+22	+2.2
Carlsberg	1,020	+22	+2.2
Heineken	1,020	+22	+2.2
Johnnie Walker	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2

## Shorts

Share	Price	Chg	%
Adnams	1,020	+22	+2.2
Brewery	1,020	+22	+2.2
Carlsberg	1,020	+22	+2.2
Heineken	1,020	+22	+2.2
Johnnie Walker	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2

## Mediums

Share	Price	Chg	%
Adnams	1,020	+22	+2.2
Brewery	1,020	+22	+2.2
Carlsberg	1,020	+22	+2.2
Heineken	1,020	+22	+2.2
Johnnie Walker	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2

## Longs

Share	Price	Chg	%
Adnams	1,020	+22	+2.2
Brewery	1,020	+22	+2.2
Carlsberg	1,020	+22	+2.2
Heineken	1,020	+22	+2.2
Johnnie Walker	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2

## Undated

Share	Price	Chg	%
Adnams	1,020	+22	+2.2
Brewery	1,020	+22	+2.2
Carlsberg	1,020	+22	+2.2
Heineken	1,020	+22	+2.2
Johnnie Walker	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2

## Household Goods

Share	Price	Chg	%
Adnams	1,020	+22	+2.2
Brewery	1,020	+22	+2.2
Carlsberg	1,020	+22	+2.2
Heineken	1,020	+22	+2.2
Johnnie Walker	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2

## Insurance

Share	Price	Chg	%
Adnams	1,020	+22	+2.2
Brewery	1,020	+22	+2.2
Carlsberg	1,020	+22	+2.2
Heineken	1,020	+22	+2.2
Johnnie Walker	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2
London & Manchester	1,020	+22	+2.2

## Internationals

270	Carlsberg	367	+1	37	53	2580
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3	Deutsche	97		58	31	654
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Cullen: Not afraid to take risks Photograph: Allsport

## Cullen running in the shadows of a legend

Christian Cullen would pass almost unnoticed in any crowd. Small in stature, quiet in demeanour, New Zealand's newest full-back has never wanted to be the centre of attention.

Cullen prefers life in the slow lane. Anonymity as an All Black, however, is an absolute impossibility, as the 20-year-old from the farming back-blocks of Manawatu has discovered in the past few months.

Superstar status does not sit easily on his shoulders but Cullen is coming to terms with his changing lifestyle with the steady assurance that has catapulted him, in a few hectic weeks, to the pinnacle of international rugby, alongside the likes of Jonah Lomu.

His stunning displays in the Hong Kong Sevens in March gave a sneak preview of his talent, and in the six Tests that Cullen has played since his impressive man-of-the-series performance in Hong Kong, no one, least of all a discerning New Zealand public, has been disappointed. A return of eight international tries does not even begin to tell the whole story. There is much more to Cullen than that.

Andrew Mehrtens, whose running and kicking skills at outside-half have almost relegated his predecessor, and linchpin of the All Blacks since 1987, Grant Fox, to the forgotten ranks, has not been surprised with the way Cullen has coped with Test

rugby. "Christian may be a quiet guy but no one should imagine for a moment that he lacks self-belief," he said. "He is, in fact, a very confident fellow, and that's why he hasn't struggled to make the big step into the international game."

"He has many attributes, not least of all his pace. That gets him noticed but I wouldn't rate that as his most potent weapon. Indeed, he has so much going for him that it's hard to pick out a particular strength. He is very courageous, any at full-back you need to be brave. His ball handling is exceptional, but if there

was one thing I had to highlight it would be his unpredictability. "He is a very daring player. He's prepared to try anything, any time. That makes him a handful for any side, and he's almost impossible to contain."

"That makes my job a lot easier. Knowing I have guys like him and Jeff Wilson floating around on the outside means I can try things, too, knowing they'll be there to get on the end of any move. That really does give us an extra cutting edge, and I think we've become an even better team since Christian came into the side."

Cullen wins his seventh cap in today's clash with South Africa in Cape Town in the final match of the Tri-Nations series. The prospect of that match and the up-coming three-Test series against the reigning world champions is one that Cullen relishes.

"These matches are the ultimate test for both me and the rest of the team," Cullen said. "So far I've only played one Test away from New Zealand, when we beat Australia in Brisbane a couple of weeks ago."

"Coming on this tour is a big step for me. In the week that

we've been over here so far, I've started to realise the importance of being an All Black."

"When I first got into the team I had to pinch myself sometimes to realise I was playing alongside some of my boyhood idols. I was in primary school when people like Sean Fitzpatrick and Zinzan Brooke first got into the New Zealand team. They were my heroes, so it took me a while to really believe that I was playing in the same side as them."

"Now this tour has given me the chance to establish my reputation at international level. I intend to make the most of my chance. Things have gone so well for me in the past few months that it's hard to believe

what I've already achieved. Scoring three tries on my debut against Western Samoa was an incredible way to start and the four tries I got against Scotland in the next match gave me an even bigger buzz. I suppose it was a fairytale story, but that kind of start gave me the inner confidence to try different things out on the pitch."

"That's not something I set out to do deliberately. I just play off the cuff, and if I see a chance to try something unusual then I'll go for it. I'm not afraid to make a mistake."

Cullen has made precious few of those at international level so far. François Pienaar and his South African side will shortly bear testimony to that.

SECOND TEST: Difficult day shows that new men in charge will have the same old problems

## Barclay and Emburey to join Lloyd

### Cricket

DEREK HODGSON  
reports from Headingley

John Barclay will manage England's winter tour of Zimbabwe and New Zealand with David Lloyd as coach and John Emburey, as forecast, as England's new bowling coach, his official title being assistant coach.

Lloyd's position, with a two-year contract on offer, is firm. Barclay and Emburey, both of whom have successful A Tours on their CV, are on trial, awaiting the new management structure to be erected under the eventual direction of the new English Cricket Board. The combination looks good: Barclay, an old Etonian, is a diplomat, Lloyd a motivator and Emburey one of the most respected old pros in the business.

They will be no more on trial than several players. The touring party will be named on 10 September and after yesterday's play, which has put this series against Pakistan almost beyond reach - England still need 144 to avoid a follow-on - a defeat would bring further calls for new blood, to which the selectors should retort: "From a stone?"

The A team is expected to be a young side for a seven-week tour of Australia that contains no representative matches.

Zimbabwe could see two or three players only just into first-class cricket who are regarded as the pick of the next generation. As for the A tour manager, Mike Gatting's name has been mentioned.

If England spent much of the day under a deep cloud as Leeds did, they were able to send home a well-behaved 15,750 crowd in some hope of a brighter today. The most bizarre episode in a dismal afternoon came after tea when the umpires walked out in such gloom they were holding their light meters. Pakistan's eight and nine, Moin Khan and Mushtaq Ahmed, waved away the offer of the light, tactically correct with a score of 423 for 7, but also signifying some contempt for England's bowling.

Dominic Cork, who finished with five wickets, was honest: "The pitch is good but if you put the ball in the right place it will seam. We bowled too short on Thursday but we stuck at it and showed we're not frightened. We've got to think beyond a draw. This isn't a hard surface as Lord's and I'm not expecting a big reverse swing."

Moin Khan, who became Pakistan's highest scoring wicketkeeper against England, said: "The pitch was seaming up to lunch but now seems to have settled down, and batting became much easier."



Pakistan's Moin Khan just makes his ground to complete his century at Headingley yesterday Photograph: Peter Jay

## Hussain endeavours to entertain in the field

### Henry Blofeld

While it is virtually impossible to find a single redeeming feature in England's performance in the field over the first two days at Headingley, they must not be allowed to pass without reference to the brilliant fielding of Nasser Hussain.

His superb athleticism allied to his keen anticipation and splendid throwing arm enabled him to save a great many runs

during the Pakistan innings as he threw himself this way and that, mostly in the covers.

It was a brilliant piece of fielding by Hussain which contributed to Ijaz Ahmed's dismissal on the first day, although it happened seven overs before he was out. Ijaz had been marooned on 133 for some while, partly because he could not beat the field and partly because Salim Malik, his partner, had most of the strike. When at last Ijaz came to face Andy Caddick, he played another

withering square cut which Hussain somehow cut off at cover as he dived to his left. This brilliant piece of fielding visibly annoyed Ijaz who thought he should have had four runs, and in his frustration he became more reckless in his attempt to push the score along but he was still unable to get the ball through the field.

Seven overs later he had faced only another 18 balls and was still like a tightly coiled spring. It was then that Dominic Cork bowled him a slower one which was a

wide half volley. Ijaz planted his front foot down the pitch on the line of the off stump and flailed wildly at a ball which he could scarcely reach and was caught behind. If that earlier square cut had gone for four, Ijaz may well have kept his composure.

It is in ways like this that outstanding fielders like Hussain have such an important effect on the game. They can also do a great deal to raise the morale of the side, and the other England players must surely have been

uplifted by Hussain's performance. Several had their heads down and for them Hussain's best efforts must have come as a much-needed shot of adrenalin.

Another by-product of fielding of this class is the superb entertainment value it provides. There is something most compelling about watching Hussain perform his feats as there was when watching Clive Lloyd in his early days in the covers or Viv Richards, especially in the 1975 World Cup final at Lord's

when he ran out two Australian batsmen with direct hits.

Then there was Paul Sheahan and Ross Edwards of Australia and before that Norman O'Neill and Neil Harvey. Perhaps the best two fielders of them all came from South Africa. Jonty Rhodes in their present side needs no introduction but not everyone will remember Colin Bland from their side in the 1960s. No other fielder had quite the same ability constantly to throw down the stumps from any angle.

## Surrey seal vital victory

### MIKE CAREY

reports from Southport  
Surrey 211 and 442  
Lancashire 145 and 368  
Surrey win by 140 runs

Trafalgar Road's unpredictable, re-laid pitch had the last word yesterday and, more often than not, it was "goodbye". By mid afternoon, under a hot sun, the ball was going through the top with some frequency as Surrey closed in on an important Championship win.

Not that it was straightforward. It took some time for the penny to drop for Surrey's attack that they were bowling the wrong length for these conditions and Lancashire found themselves passing 170 with only one wicket down. They had been set a target, strictly national on this pitch, of 505, seven more than any side have ever made to win a Championship game. But, for a brief time, the locals were able to dream that this resort might be famous for something more than its flower show and as a haven for the water-jack pot.

Surrey's opening salvo with the new ball was too wide and too full, and Jason Gallian and Steve Titchard found themselves able to operate on the front foot with a certainty not possible in the first innings.

Titchard, one of those unsung but valuable journeymen of the game, might have felt it was not going to be his day when (to the mirth of his team-mates) he was asked for his admission ticket by a gateman who failed to recognise him. However, he was quick to recognise the half volleys and put them away with great fluency until he was bowled playing across the line.

By then, Brendon Julian and Martin Bicknell had started to dig the ball in just short of a length and, unsurprisingly, batting started to look decidedly hazardous once more.

This could be said to be a pitch which not only gets batsmen out but also finds them out. Not Gallian. He had started the day by yanking Julian and taking six wickets for the first time. Now he battled it out for some three hours, taking all sorts of blows, until he was caught off a wide-swooping stroke.

The rest was more predictable. Nick Speak was tormented by a ball from Joey Benjamin that removed his middle stump. Neil Fairbrother, facing a king pair, only just avoided it before his lack of footwork betrayed him. Graham Lloyd threw the bat at everything, including eventually a very wide one as Lancashire went down with all guns blazing, or at least as loudly as they could on this pitch.

## McCague has the last word

### MICHAEL AUSTIN

reports from Northampton  
Kent 316  
Northants 133 and 91-3

Few bowlers border on the unplayable but Martin McCague did here. He exploited irregular bounce with an awesome display of venomous accuracy to exploit Northamptonshire's apparent death wish.

They failed, flashed and perished as if imagining they were defending their lead at the top of the Sunday League, rather than being involved in a four-day match. McCague returned for 21 to prompt the follow-on and another batting struggle in the twilight zone.

Northamptonshire have two authentic openers, Alan Fordham and Richard Montgomerie, and four other batsmen, whose calling at present is at No 6. Without the injured Rob Bailey, they have no No 3 and their folly of omitting Mal Loye was laid bare.

It suited Kent, handily placed at joint fifth with Derbyshire. They bowled admirably in both innings. Tim Wren imposed himself with three post-tea wickets at Northamptonshire sought a distant 183 to avoid an innings defeat.

Min Patel, slow left-arm, had returned 3-46 in the first innings, illustrating the breadth of Kent's attack on a pitch probably enlivened by the after-lunch break for rain.

A green, plastic, sausage-shaped cover was rolled on to protect the square, including the perspiring pitch, and from 7.35, only 60 runs were added for the loss of seven wickets. The orthodox covers, lurking on the

old football field, remained behind the advertisement boards. John Emburey, Northamptonshire's chief coach appointed yesterday as assistant to David Lloyd on England's winter tour of Zimbabwe and New Zealand said: "We are just not applying ourselves well enough."

At least Fordham did in the first innings, with only his second Championship half-century of the summer. Kevin Curran chose the alternative method with a flashing blade bringing 45, with 10 fours, from 46 balls.

Fordham experienced a shooter and then a sporter from McCague, the catch flying to first slip. Montgomerie had been caught off a glove and David Sales yanked by McCague. The middle order and tail came quietly in the team's lowest score of the season.

Trevor Ward swooped to take a low catch at mid-off to dismiss David Capel second ball after the follow-on and Northamptonshire still need 92 to prevent an ignominious defeat.

THE INDEPENDENT

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## TODAY'S NUMBER

10

The pounds that Blackpool were prepared to pay for £88 lodgings while the goalkeeper Keith Welch searched for a house, had he agreed to move from Bristol City. "I expected to be put up in a hotel like any other footballer," Welch said. "The deal is off."

### Starting tomorrow

AVIA COUNTY & LAW LEAGUE (one day, 2.20): Somerset v Gloucestershire, Oxfordshire v Lancashire, Northamptonshire v Gloucestershire, Middlesex v Kent, Warwickshire v Somerset, Essex v Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire v Warwickshire, Gloucestershire v Durham.

### BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

#### First day of four

Lancashire v Surrey (2nd day) Lancashire 145 and 368 Surrey 211 and 442

Surrey v Lancashire (1st day) Surrey 211 and 442 Lancashire 145 and 368

Gloucestershire v Warwickshire (1st day) Gloucestershire 145 and 368 Warwickshire 211 and 442

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Essex v Gloucestershire (1st day) Essex 211 and 442 Gloucestershire 145 and 368

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Gloucestershire v Essex (6th day) Gloucestershire 211 and 442 Essex 145 and 368

Essex v Gloucestershire (7th day) Essex 211 and 442 Gloucestershire 145 and 368

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Gloucestershire v Essex (8th day) Gloucestershire 211 and 442 Essex 145 and 368

Essex v Gloucestershire (9th day) Essex 211 and 442 Gloucestershire 145 and 368

Gloucestershire v Essex (9th day) Gloucestershire 211 and 442 Essex 145 and 368

Essex v Gloucestershire (10th day) Essex 211 and 442 Gloucestershire 145 and 368

Gloucestershire v Essex (10th day) Gloucestershire 211 and 442 Essex 145 and 368

Essex v Gloucestershire (11th day) Essex 211 and 442 Gloucestershire 145 and 368

Gloucestershire v Essex (11th day) Gloucestershire 211 and 442 Essex 145 and 368

### CRICKET SCOREBOARD

#### BRITANNIC ASSURANCE COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP

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Essex v Gloucestershire (10th day) Essex 211 and 442 Gloucestershire 145 and 368

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# Resurgent Black focused on enjoyment

There were few smiling British Olympians returning last week from their antics in Atlanta but, amid all the acrimony, inquisitions and general gloom, one well-known athlete was making the Cheshire Cat look depressed.

The man in question is Roger Black, double silver medalist in the 400m individual and relay races, and a sportsman who has defied career-threatening ailments virtually non-stop since he first burst on to the scene back in 1986.

Bumping into him during the last day of the Olympics in the athletes' village was a good experience for anyone feeling anything but content with life because, within a few minutes, his infectious mood ensured that you, too, were immediately cheered by the genuine joy and relief on show. If you are a member of the Black family, or a good friend of the 30-year-old, now would be a good time to ask him for a favour, or request an outrageous birthday or early Christmas present.

Inviting me to lunch in the athletes' refectory Black, twice a European and Commonwealth champion, as well as a world relay gold and individual silver medalist, was able to clearly define the reasons behind his success in Atlanta.

"The main factor is simple," he said. "I'm healthy, and when you're healthy this business isn't difficult. I've not had a total clean bill of health since 1986, and when you have an injury you focus on it, both in training and competition. When you are healthy, though, you concentrate on just one thing - running."

There is much more to Black's resurgence, however, than this simple explanation. Despite his experience in corporate speaking,

Ian Stafford finds Britain's premier 400m runner is happy to be healthy and delighted with his Olympic silver medals

where he lectures about motivation, he had clearly never listened to himself before. "I took accountability for myself, rather than expecting other people to help me," he admitted. "It meant that I was able to make big decisions, like going to Australia for six months over last winter after my cartilage operation."

"I was able to do this because I found a way to enjoy my sport again, after a period, certainly during my glandular fever spell three years ago, where I clearly was not. I enjoyed the success when it came, but not the day-to-day process of athletics. So I decided to listen to my own motivational speaking and create a psychological situation which was better for Roger Black."

"You're always led to believe that you've got to be really aggressive and motivated to succeed, but I realised it wasn't my nature. I need to be focused, confident and at peace with myself. I read a lot of psychological books, worked closely with my good friend Sven Nylander, the Swedish athlete, and spoke at length with Steve Backley in Tallahassee, who is also a great believer in self-taught psychology. And once my injury had cleared up I was mentally stronger."

You would have got good money on Black even making the British individual team not too long ago, such is the strength of our one-lap running, let alone winning a silver medal. Even Black had his doubts during the winter. "Oh, there's no way I saw myself ending up with an Olympic silver medal back then," he agreed. "I went to Australia

with Jon Ridgeon to get away from everything, get out of my natural environment, recover and to become an athlete again. "It was only at the Olympic trials [when Black beat the best of Britain and set a national record] that I thought I could be on for something. When I walked into the stadium before the Olympic final I was as cool as a cucumber. I put my hand on my heart and couldn't feel it. At one time that would have worried me, but I saw this as confirmation that things would go well."

*'Before the Olympic final I put my hand on my heart and couldn't feel it'*

Did you see Michael Johnson surging ahead in the distance? "No, I was completely focused on my own race. Neither was I aware of people behind me. People will keep on telling me: 'If you'd tried to beat Johnson you could have won the gold medal,' but they are wrong."

"Johnson is a phenomenal athlete and for me to have beaten him would have required a faster run from me, and a mistake by him. I opted to run my own race and not even try to beat him because, if I'd run his race, I would have tied up and been caught on the line, as I did in the 1991 World Champion-

ships final in Tokyo. My natural instinct was to go with him, but I held myself back.

"If it had been Zurich I would have gone with him and seen whether I could break 44 seconds, but not in an Olympic final, and not when you knew what a silver medal would mean. I just couldn't risk it."

Black's plan almost introduces a whole new psychological theory based on aiming to come second, something for which he has already been criticised. "I know [Du'Aine] Ladefogues has had a go at me because I talk in this way. He says I'm happy to be Britain's No 1, while he wants to be the world's No 1. Well, let's become the national champion first."

"The point is that I've rewritten a lot of stuff in my head, because the concept of running for second place is perceived as defeatism. I believe that the concept of running the best race you can, accepting the opposition, and knowing that if they make a mistake you will win, is the right mind set in certain circumstances. It also creates a success without actually winning. Success, don't forget, should be personal."

Black was so excited that he spoke at a great rate of knots. "Someone said to me on the radio: 'You must have a tinge of disappointment.' Tinge of disappointment? I've been in this sport for 11 years, and I've just won an Olympic silver medal after three operations and 10 years of injury and illness. You do well if you have one, injury-free season of success in this sport. How many people can say

that they possess an Olympic silver medal in this world? And, to think, nobody had me down for any kind of medal."

He pauses quickly, and then repeats his indignation at the phrase used on the airwaves. "Tinge of disappointment!"

So, absolutely no bitterness then after a career which has borne much fruit, but could have produced even more had he not been subjected to a horrific list of injuries and illness?

"Absolutely none. I'm grateful for this moment, not bitterly looking back. I appreciate it much more at my age too."

And no points proved? "Nope. I've already exceeded my expectations, and I refuse to get caught up in this sporting disease of ultimately never being happy because I'm always striving to do better. My goal is simply to be happy, and by focusing on that it's made me a better athlete."

"You see, I've never needed to be an Olympic champion to be happy. I'm intelligent enough to realise that if your happiness depended on winning an Olympic gold medal then it would depend on something you can't control. All I can control is me. I ran a bloody good race in the final and won a silver medal and, believe me, it's the best thing I've ever done."

Black will race the season out, starting in London tomorrow and then starting planning for the World Championships next year, and a crack at a third European title in 1998.

As we bade our farewells, I told him that I had never seen him happier with life. "I've not got a worry in the world," he replied. "It's absolutely wonderful. Fantastic. It's really great." You missed out fabulous there, Roger, but we get the drift.



Roger Black celebrates his individual 400m silver medal at the Olympics. Photograph: PA

## Christie keen to erase Olympic trauma

MIKE ROWBOTTOM

The grand prix meeting at Crystal Palace tomorrow offers Britain's returning Olympians their traditional opportunity for a "fly-past" - although in some cases the fliers will display the patched-up appearance of those recently under heavy enemy fire.

Linford Christie, making what is said to be his last appearance at Crystal Palace as retirement from international competition looms, will be anxious to leave his old haunt with some good

memories after his traumatic experiences in the last fortnight.

Disqualified from the 100m final in Atlanta, knocked out of the 200m in the second round and prevented from taking part in the sprint relay after his colleagues dropped the baton, he will be seeking a solid performance at the Performance Games. As of yesterday, fewer than half of the 17,000 tickets had been sold, and Tony Ward, of the British Athletics Federation, was talking about the need to reduce domestic meetings next season from the current number of six to four.

Ward acknowledged that the absence of track and field gold medalists in Atlanta may have been partly to blame for the reduced interest. There is, nevertheless, the opportunity to see some of the Britons who came closest to gold in the Centennial Olympics, notably the 400m silver medalist Roger Black.

He will run over 300m against his partners in the 400m relay team who also won silver, Iwan Thomas, Jamie Baulch and Mark Richardson. Steve Backley, javelin silver medalist behind Jan Zeleny, will

return to his backyard for what is only his fourth competition of the season. The women's javelin will feature Tessa Sanderson, an Olympic finalist at 40, who is taking part in what she insists is her very last competition.

Colin Jackson, beaten into fourth in the Olympic 110m hurdles, will have two chances in the space of two days to redress the balance of his season in meetings with the gold medalist Allen Johnson. Jackson is due to meet the American today in the Monte Carlo grand prix as well as at Crystal Palace.

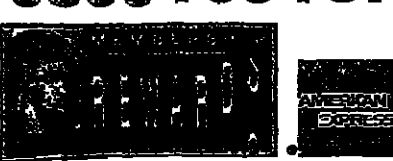


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5.40 Ely Fleetfoot 6.10 Inflation 6.40 Chris Lad 7.10 Caspian Moon 7.40 Invocation 8.10 Hovva Al Nassamart

GOING: Standard. SPALLS: Inside, except 6f (outside). DRAW ADVANTAGE: high best 5f & 6f.

WIND: 12-14 mph, S.W. Course is 200m on 6.10. Lingfield station (served by London Victoria) adjacent course. ADJUDICATOR: Mrs. J. H. Thompson. Club: Lingfield Race Club.

SS: BLANKET FIRST TIME: May Queen Megan (Victory, 7.40).

WINDERS IN THE LAST SEVEN DAYS: None. LONG-DISTANCE REINER: Damsel (9.10) next 172 miles from D. H. Jones's stable in Mid Cheshire.

5.40 ELIZABETH STABLE HANDICAP (CLASS D) £3,000 added 2m 2f (AW)

1. 3045-64 CAN BIRD (7) (5) 8.10 2. 1000-00 SILVER TON (6) (4) 8.10 3. 0000-00 ONDERS (5) (3) 8.10 4. 0000-00 ANSOMER POWER (4) (2) 8.10 5. 0000-00 BATHING (3) (1) 8.10 6. 0000-00 NEAR (2) (0) 8.10 7. 0000-00 LILAC (1) (0) 8.10 8. 0000-00 ELY FLEETFOOT (0) (0) 8.10 9. 0000-00 CASPIAN MOON (0) (0) 8.10 10. 0000-00 HOVVA AL NASSAMART (0) (0) 8.10 11. 0000-00 INVOCATION (0) (0) 8.10 12. 0000-00 CHRYSTAL PALACE (0) (0) 8.10

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## sport

CHARITY SHIELD: Double winners back at Wembley

## Shearer ensures global interest

Alan Shearer and the Toon Army are in disagreement. As far as Shearer is concerned, tomorrow's FA Charity Shield is an irrelevance compared to next week's Premiership opener at Goodison Park.

Tell that to the Newcastle supporters. They were looking forward to this match even before Shearer came home. It is 20 years since they have been to Wembley, long enough to persuade many to cheer Manchester United's double because it meant Newcastle, as Premiership runners-up, would contest the Shield.

Newcastle's last Wembley memory does not quite date back as far as lace-up balls and waxed moustaches, but it was in the days when the Football League Cup was sponsored and Manchester City won trophies — they won that 1976 final through Dennis Tueart's spectacular overhead kick. Newcastle's last Wembley win was in lace-up times, 1955, when Jackie Milburn scored in the 3-1 FA Cup win over Manchester City.

It is the arrival of Milburn's latest successor, Shearer, which has lifted this match out of a private Novocastrian party to an international event. Manchester United may be so blasé about Wembley as to request less than a full ticket allocation but the rest of us want to see how Shearer settles in.

The player himself expects goals to be harder to come by. "With due respect to the lads at Blackburn it was my job to get the goals there," he said. "Here at Newcastle we have so many other players capable of scoring I might struggle to get anywhere near the 30 mark."

Who he plays with will be almost as interesting as how he plays. Les Ferdinand missed last night's match at Lincoln with flu but he is expected to start if fit. That could mean both Peter Beardsley and Faustino Asprilla beginning the season on the bench. It is unlikely that the latter, at least, will be prepared to stay there for long.

Newcastle have a point to prove in the traditional opener to the English season. Glenn Moore reports

Philippe Albert, who has a back injury, is Newcastle's only other doubt although Robbie Elliott has been left out following his transfer talks with Blackburn Rovers.

Such is the fuss surrounding Shearer it is almost forgotten that the champions have been busy in the transfer market signing a clutch of foreigners. They include one of the stars of Euro 96, the Czech Karel Poborsky, and Johan Cruyff's son, Jordi.

They should all be on the bench tomorrow as Ferguson hinted that he would start this season with most of the team which finished the last. Paul Scholes is expected to replace Andy Cole, who has pneumonia, while Gary Neville may come into defence.

Ferguson warned that no one would retain their place all season. "I never use the term dropping players, but you have got to ease them in and out very carefully with a programme like the one we face."

Bryan Robson, when he was here, wanted to play in every match but it's just not possible. He used to argue with me but, looking back, I think he knows I was right. It is something that Jordi Cruyff already knows. The Premier League is just too hard and physical for players to play every game.

"Our intention is to go for everything this season. The European Champions' Cup is the pinnacle but we aim to stay near enough the top of the league to make that a realistic aim in the last couple of weeks as well."

The FA Cup final winner, Eric Cantona, missed last season's Charity Shield — he was still banned — but has done well in the past. He scored one of the goals which beat Blackburn in 1994 and struck a stunning

hat-trick in Leeds' defeat of Liverpool two years earlier.

That fixture echoed the first Wembley Charity Shield in 1974. That meeting was made infamous by a fight between Kevin Keegan and Billy Bremner. Keegan, who threw off his shirt upon the inevitable dismissal, was reminded of this week when he said "these fixtures are just friendlies".

"Not too friendly that day," he agreed. Neither was last year's snarling scrap between Everton and Blackburn.

This should be played in a better spirit though there is more at stake than just pride. Newcastle need a good performance. They have not beaten Manchester United in six matches since returning to the Premiership. As the champions showed last spring, when it comes down to the wire belief can tip the balance.

Manchester United have featured in 15 Shields, winning eight, including the first in 1908, and sharing four. Newcastle have lost four — including a 4-2 defeat to Manchester United in 1952 — and won once, in 1909, against Northampton.

In those days the match was between the winners of the Football League and the Southern League. It has come a long way since then, and raised millions of pounds for charity. Last year, which was poorly attended, raised £273,000. The 40-plus beneficiaries included the Birmingham Royal Institute for the Blind, Turning Point and the Police Benevolent Fund.

This is the most public of many charitable works by footballers and football clubs and the benefits will be gratefully received. Even so, given the game's current wealth, consideration should be given to turning over all the expected £1.2m receipts to charity. Only a third is passed on. Wembley (for whom charity always begins at home) take their customary third and the teams share a similar sum. In Newcastle's case, that should just about cover Shearer's big toe.



Gianluca Vialli, Chelsea's Italian striker (right), tussles with Sampdoria's Sinisa Mihajlovic in Genoa on Thursday night. Vialli scored the opening goal after 17 minutes in Chelsea's 2-1 win over their hosts. Photograph: Reuter

## Poles stung by Welsh courage

They were still not quite sure yesterday in the tiny mid-Wales village of Llansantffraid-ym-Mechain whether their No 1 European football hero was a plumber, a bricklayer or a night-club bouncer.

What they did know was that the local part-timers from the League of Wales have every chance of writing a chapter of football folklore when they fly out in two weeks' time for the second leg of their European Cup-Winners' Cup qualifying round tie against Ruch Chorzow, who have won the Polish League 14 times.

Llansantffraid's collection of £30-a-week footballers, held Chorzow to a 1-1 draw at the Racecourse Ground, Wrexham, on Thursday. Seven minutes from the end of a game in which the Poles promised to scrape through to a narrow victory by virtue of Danusz Giesior's early header, the ball appeared — as if by magic — in the back of the Polish team's net.

Most of the 1,558 crowd who had left the tiny village near Oswestry deserted for the day believed big centre-half Arwel Jones — a plumber by day — had applied the crucial finishing touch in the 83rd minute, but the Icelandic referee ruled it was an own goal by Giesior.

Graham Breeze, Llansantffraid's manager and the local newspaper editor said: "We will go to Poland in two weeks' time with all guns blazing for the second leg. After this, I certainly can't see why we won't get a result."

"We are obviously up against a much better team. They are quicker and sharper than us, and when we went a goal down so early I feared the worst. But our boys just rolled up their sleeves and kept battling. And what happened shows what you can do if you really want it."

It will cost Llansantffraid (population of 954 at the last count) between £7,000 and £8,000 to get to Poland to face a crowd of 20,000. But with a UEFA grant and the takings from last night's crowd, they will, at least, break even.

## QUOTES OF THE WEEK

■ We are skint. We are desperate for money, we have no sponsorship and we are selling the gear to have a night out. There is nothing wrong with that after four years' hard training. Two of Britain's Olympic divers, **Tony Ali and Robert Morgan**, justify selling their team kit on the streets of Atlanta.

■ The championship is over. I want to die. **Diego Maradona** after missing his fifth consecutive penalty, playing for Boca Juniors against Racing Club. Boca lost 1-0.

■ When I go there will be an enormous gaping hole that won't be filled. **Lindford Christie** complains about lack of government funding for his sport.

■ I'll always be a sheet metal worker's son from Newcastle. **Alan Shearer** introduces himself to the adoring Geordie public.

## Nine on the mind of the Old Firm Plymouth sign Grobbelaar

Only in Glasgow would hundreds of people stand for hours staring at bricks. The Scottish League season, which kicks off today, started several weeks ago for some supporters of Celtic and Rangers: those fanatics who daily stand and stare at Celtic Park and Ibrox waiting for a glimpse of the heroes in whom they will invest their emotional well-being over the next 10 months.

This season, the equation is dominated by the number nine as Rangers attempt to equal Celtic's record nine-in-a-row run of the 1960s and 70s. Celtic, equally, are determined to preserve their achievement.

The fans have jammed newspaper phone lines praising their favourites or sneering at the enemy, their reaction giving an indication that this will be, for the big two, an intense season.

The best way, some would say, the only way, to assess the kind of campaign that awaits is to look to the turf accountants. Their figures have Rangers as favourites at 2-5 for the title, with Celtic a close second at 2-1.

The annual report on the finances of Scottish football, published this week by Price Waterhouse, shows Celtic and Rangers moving further away

from the rest of Scottish football, fuelling fears among the rest that the big two might never be caught again. Between them the Glasgow clubs boast almost as many seats as the other eight combined and, given their commercial bases, they can only continue to prosper.

Despite evidence to the contrary, which includes league records last season of Rangers and Celtic losing just seven games between them, Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, believes his side faces a tough time, however.

"It may be a case this year that there will be extra nerves and we have to handle a bit more pressure than would normally be there. The indica-

David McKinney asks: Is there life beyond Rangers and Celtic?

tions were that Celtic and ourselves were well ahead of the others, but no two seasons are the same. Hearts and Aberdeen had excellent European results in the week, indicating they could be up for the challenge. Rangers and Celtic have to maintain the standards they set last year, but that could be difficult.

"I hope the nine-in-a-row doesn't prey on the minds of my players, yet it's something we must use as a form of moti-

vation, although we have to watch we don't get too carried away."

On the other side of the city, Tommy Burns, the Celtic manager, who has brought in Paolo Di Canio and Alan Stubbs for the challenges ahead, has told the Celtic fans exactly what they wanted to hear. Before last week's friendly with Arsenal last week, Burns, addressing 47,000 supporters, told them: "We will give until it hurts."

Burns, imbued with a sense of the club's history, is well aware of the importance of this season, as is Peter Grant, the midfield veteran, who assured supporters that the players will do everything in their power to win the Championship. We

know exactly what this means, and we are as determined as the supporters to make sure our record stays intact."

Beyond the Old Firm spotlight, the prospects for the other eight clubs would appear to involve little more than the chance of a good cup run, although Hearts have made reasonable strides towards becoming more competitive by the signing of three players, including Jeremy Goss from Norwich. Aberdeen, who can be expected to contest third place with Hearts, know they will have to improve on last season, when they finished 28 points behind Celtic. Ilian Kirakov, the Bulgarian international, will be their key man for the season.

The future will inevitably demand that Rangers and Celtic seek out new frontiers, such as a British League, and, given the increased fiscal pressures on all clubs, such a move could come sooner rather than later.

In the meantime if you feel particularly brave or foolish, a bet on Dunfermline, Kilmarnock or Raith Rovers to win the title would give a 500-1 return — the same price as confirmation of the existence of the Loch Ness Monster...

Bruce Grobbelaar, who is due to appear in court in January over match-fixing allegations, has joined Plymouth Argyle, writes Mark Burton.

The 38-year-old Zimbabwe international, who was released by Southampton this summer, has signed a 12-month contract. Grobbelaar, who made more than 600 appearances for Liverpool, will play for the newly promoted Second Division club against Manchester City in today's friendly match at Home Park.

Argyle's manager, Neil Warnock, was keen to sign him for what he expects to be a difficult season for Plymouth. "I realise he has got problems but what matters most is what he does on the pitch," Warnock said.

The problem the Leeds United manager, Howard Wilkinson, faces is that Tony Yeboah will not be doing anything on the pitch for a while. The Ghanaian international striker will undergo an exploratory operation early next week on the knee injury that kept him out of action late last season. "It is not possible to say how many games Tony will miss," Wilkinson said. Motherwell's Paul Lambert

became another post-Bosman Scottish export yesterday when he joined the German champions, Borussia Dortmund, on a three-year contract after impressing their coach, Ottmar Hitzfeld, in two trial periods. Lambert left the Premier Division club on freedom of contract to move to the Continent.

Ivano Bonetti, the former Juventus and Torino midfielder, whose dressing-room row with the manager, Brian Laws, led to him leaving Grimsby Town, has signed a 12-month contract with Tranmere Rovers after weeks of talks.

The Wolves manager, Mark McGhee, expects right-back Serge Romano to sign a one-year contract at Molineux on Monday. Romano, who is available on a free transfer from Martigues, played on trial in Wolves' pre-season matches.

The Liverpool defender Neil Ruddock has been fined £2,000 by the FA's disciplinary committee and warned about his future conduct for exceeding 45 disciplinary points last season. Aimé Jacquet, who coached France in Euro 96, will continue to lead them in the 1998 World Cup finals, which they host.

## Like a good wine, or Gordon Strachan, Rothmans seems to get better with age, but it is not always in demand for reasons you might expect

This close season has been the closest ever. The curtain has been down just 41 days on Euro 96 and we are already gearing up for the "curtain raiser to the new season", as the billing of tomorrow's Charity Shield reads. However, as those of us who earn our grubby shilling writing about the beautiful game will tell you, the real curtain raiser to every new season is the launch of the Rothmans Football Yearbook, now in its 27th edition.

Like a good wine, or Gordon Strachan, Rothmans seems to get better with age (last year it sold 37,000 copies and was on the best-seller list for six months), but it is not always in demand for the reasons you might expect. Charlie Buchan, then a football reporter on *The Guardian*, recalls this tale from his trip to Simferopol in March 1982 for the first leg of Aston Villa's European Cup tie with Dynamo Kiev (it was too cold in the Crimea to stage the game). "We were having a shot of vodka in a local bar before the game

and the owner was muttering to us. The Russians on the next table explained, in perfect English, that she was asking us not to smoke. It transpired this Russian had been living in Bolton and he ended up acting as our tour guide."

After the game (a 0-0 draw; Villa won the second leg 2-0 and went on to win the trophy) Buchan decided to thank the Russian for his hospitality by giving him a copy of *Rothmans*. "We met in nearby park [locals were not allowed in tourist hotels] and, as I was handing the book over, three policemen jumped out of the bushes and arrested him. The following day he contacted me to explain they had confiscated the book, before abandoning him at the opposite end of the city where there was no public transport."

It would be nice to think it was the Simferopol coppers' love of football that forced them to take such drastic measures to obtain a copy of *Rothmans*. The simple truth is that they thought Buchan was giv-

ing the Russian a copy of the bible. Which, in a sense, he was. Because *Rothmans* is the football bible. In fact I would go so far to say that those in the trade swear by it, use it — as Jim Rosenthal put it at the launch on Thursday — "as a friend and an ally in times of need" (that is, lack of knowledge). In fact I blast "Where's the *Rothmans*?" so frequently during the season and find it being used so often, that within weeks of each edition's launch, it has grown dog-eared and well-worn, its loose pages put back at random so that Port Vale's statistics appear next to Burnley's, or Oxford's fixtures end up next to Crewe's.

Such defacements seldom detract from *Rothmans*' appeal, however, even if some people do find strange uses for their copies. When I first met Walter Smith, the Rangers manager was dipping chunks of bread into a bowl of bright red tomato soup (a rather meagre meal given the grandiose surroundings of his Ibrox office) which was balanced

Olivia Blair



ON SATURDAY

precisely on top of a copy of *Rothmans*. It was not his usual use for the book, he assured me, like most managers Smith would not be without it (although he obviously didn't spend his summer scouring the players listed in *Rothmans*, judging by Ibrox's latest recruits). David Pleat's use for the book is more basic: "If my wife has a headache," the Sheffield Wednesday manager says, "she'll take a pill. If I

have a headache, I read *Rothmans*." John Motson is a man with a greater need for *Rothmans* than most. In fact Motson was recently photographed for a newspaper article clad in trademark sheepskin jacket, clutching a copy of *Rothmans*. "It sums up what I think of the book," says the nearest thing to a human equivalent of *Rothmans*. "It's the first book I turn to; there's nothing else like it. It's a great compliment that others have tried to imitate it, and failed."

The BBC commentator boasts two complete sets of *Rothmans*, worth between £250-£300 each at today's prices. The most expensive and desirable edition is the first, which fetches up to £70; other editions in demand (1972/73, 1974/75 and 1977/78) sell for anything between £20 and £40. John Eastwood of the Extra Cover bookshop in London, NW5, says he recently sold a complete set to a man claiming to be America's only full-time soccer writer — and another to a Chinese

man who introduced himself as "Peking's only British-speaking commentator..."

Not even *Rothmans*' executive editor, Jack Rollin, who has worked on the books since 1972, owns a complete set. Rollin first produced the editions on a lone typewriter; now he says he could not do it alone. He and his editor daughter, Glenda (a lifelong fan of the League Division One side Aldershot Town, sadly not granted much space in *Rothmans*) started work on the 28th edition three weeks before the 27th was even printed. "If you get behind, you're finished," Rollin admits. "From May onwards we work seven days a week."

It is bang up-to-date, too. Alan Shearer's transfer, which took place three days before the edition was published, is included.

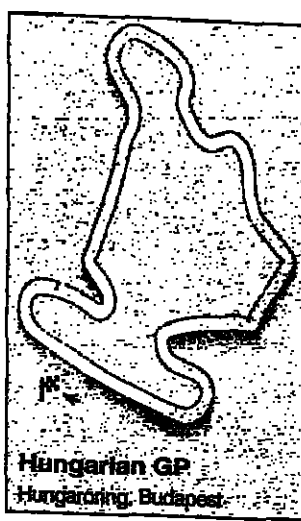
Generally each addition adheres to a tried and trusted format. When Rollin rang the changes last year by putting the players in an A-Z directory after the club listings, there

was an outcry. "We've never had such a huge response over anything before. The chairman of one First Division club rang me and said we'd lose the support of the industry that club subsequently rang me for the dates of the signings of six of their players so we couldn't have fallen too far from grace). I thought people who bought the book loved football generally, but it appears that most of them are just interested in reading about their club. Football has always been resistant to change, and *Rothmans* is no exception."

But as we start a new season, in which we have to get used to the English Football League being Nationwide, and put up with Littlewoods being stuck in front of anything that used to be sacrosanct in the game, it is nice to know that one thing about *Rothmans* is never likely to change: its name. Few people ask to buy a copy of the *Rothmans Football Yearbook*, they simply ask for *Rothmans*. Anything else just isn't football.



# Williams prepare for constructors' crown Salford close to realising Super dream



**Motor racing**  
DERICK ALLSOP  
reports from Budapest

The Ferrari was out in front unchallenged for much of yesterday's session, but the Williams closed in and ultimately edged ahead. The history of the grand prix world championship had been encapsulated in one hour's practice.

Tomorrow's Hungarian Grand Prix should confirm Williams' eighth constructors' championship, equalling Ferrari's record. That the Italian team have been there since the first season, 46 years ago, and the British half that time, moral-

ly tilts the balance in Williams' direction.

Williams-Renault require only two points to retrieve the crown from Benetton-Renault and since Damon Hill and Jacques Villeneuve, first and second in the drivers' championship, were first and third yesterday, it is reasonable to assume only breakdowns would prevent their getting them.

When Hill moved ahead of Michael Schumacher by 0.02sec, watching and savouring, as usual, from his wheelchair was Frank Williams, the man who abandoned a career as a quick yet erratic driver to set up his own team. His struggles in the early days are now

part of motor racing folklore: when his telephone line was cut off, he ran the business from a phone box.

Williams expressed surprise that he had "bumbled" all the way to Ferrari's landmark. "I'll have a drink of tea on that," he said yesterday. He was perhaps luckiest of all to be joined, in 1977, by an equally gifted, ambitious racing freak called Patrick Head, whose particular talent was designing cars.

The pair have been together ever since and, like most team men, they glean greater satisfaction from success in the constructors' championship than in the drivers' category. Williams, in particular, has always laid

stress on the contribution of his engineers and designers, and did so again yesterday, possibly a timely reminder as Hill endeavours to negotiate a new contract.

Williams said: "I'm not here for the driver's benefit. I'm here to enjoy myself and keep up my living. Drivers come and go but the team, hopefully, are here forever."

Williams has been confined to a wheelchair since a road accident, 10 years ago, but never relinquished his hold on team affairs. Some have suggested the disability threw his attention to the job into even sharper focus. "I've not been aware of that," he said. "The accident was a bit

like falling over and grazing your knee. You get up, dust yourself down and start again."

Here, on this tight, twisting circuit, where overtaking is well nigh impossible, Schumacher, the reigning champion, just might have a chance. If he can make the front row of the grid, if he can start well, if he can get to the first corner in front. If...

**HUNGARIAN GRAND PRIX (Budapest)** Provisional times after opening practice session: 1 M Schumacher (Ferrari) 1:22.166; 2 J Villeneuve (Williams) 1:22.382; 3 A Farnas (Benetton) 1:22.382; 4 J Herbert (Benetton) 1:22.617; 5 J Agazzi (Williams) 1:22.617; 6 J Herbert (Benetton) 1:22.617; 7 J Agazzi (Williams) 1:22.617; 8 J Herbert (Benetton) 1:22.617; 9 J Agazzi (Williams) 1:22.617; 10 J Herbert (Benetton) 1:22.617; 11 J Agazzi (Williams) 1:22.617; 12 J Herbert (Benetton) 1:22.617.

## Salford close to realising Super dream

### Rugby League

Andy Gregory and his Salford Reds are set to realise their Super League dream. They need just one point from their last three games to make sure of another First Division championship, and they will do that tomorrow if they avoid defeat at home to the second-placed Keighley Cougars.

While Keighley and several other First Division clubs are applying to be fast-tracked into the top flight, Salford have left no doubt as to their credentials to join the big boys. The Reds finished top of the First Division in the centenary season, but the Rugby Football League had already stated there would be no promotion at the end of that last winter campaign.

So Salford did not go up and their coach Gregory, the former Great Britain stalwart, said: "That was possibly one of the biggest disappointments of my career as a player and as a coach. But I couldn't show the players I was upset. When you're a player you can show your emotions but, as a coach, if I was to let my head go down, it would have affected the players as well."

"This will make up for that disappointment if we do it this time, and it's in our hands now. I know Keighley will be coming to try to spoil the party," Gregory added. "I know we've got a bit of rebuilding to do for Super League. I've got to make sure that, once we are in Super League, we'll stay there."

The relegation places from the First Division could also be decided this weekend, with Batley and Rochdale likely to drop. Ambitious Keighley Cougars are considering a change of

ground and name as they aim for the Super League next season. The First Division outfit, who seem certain to miss out on the one automatic promotion place, could move in with Burnley FC and play their first-team games at Turf Moor to achieve their dream. If that happened, they would look at the possibility of becoming the Pennine Cougars to coincide with the switch of venues.

Keighley's plan was put to the chief executive of the Rugby Football League, Maurice Lindsay, in a meeting at the sport's headquarters in Leeds. The Cougars chief executive, Kevin Halliday-Brown, confirmed yesterday: "We want to make a submission for fast-tracking, but we are not going to be able to bring this club up to the standard required in 'Framing the Future'."

That's the initial problem, so as we are unable to secure freehold ownership of this ground here, we have to consider playing our first-team games somewhere else.

"An alternative proposal was put to Maurice Lindsay, suggesting that we retain Cougar Park as our administrative headquarters and develop it as a sort of centre of excellence for youth development. We would play A-team and Academy games here, with our Super League games being played at an alternative venue, possibly Turf Moor."

"Burnley have excellent facilities and, if we can get permission to play our games there, we feel there is a possibility of attracting probably the highest attendance in Super League."

"The current capacity at Cougar Park falls slightly below the minimum required, which is 10,000, and we've got an old stand which doesn't provide enough seats or enough cover."

## Sons of Kentucky playing on pride

It is 44 years since big-time golf came to the Bluegrass State, which is respectively eight and six years before the Kennedys and the Kennedys were born. If the locals of Louisville are enjoying their first glimpse of the Tour for a generation at the US PGA, Perry and Cochran are enjoying the novel experience of playing in front of enthusiastic support.

There were still a couple of hundred people around just before 9pm on Thursday as Perry finished his storm-interrupted first round. With dusk falling fast, the hooter to halt play for the evening had already gone as he approached his second shot to the last. "I really didn't want to come out in the morning just to hit one shot."

Perry hit a four-iron into the front bunker, came out to 30 feet and rolled in the putt. The birdie-four equalled the course record of six-under 66 by the Valhalla designer Jack Nicklaus and Larry Mize. "I couldn't see a lot," Per-

### Andy Farrell meets two locals shining in a state starved of golf

ry said. "With my contacts, when it gets overcast and late in the day I struggle to see the ball and I can't read the greens as well. My caddy helped me over the last few holes and at the last I knew I broke a lot from left to right. I just picked a spot and wanted to lag it down there. It fell in on the back side of the hole."

Born in Elizabethtown, Perry lives in Franklin, a town of 10,000 people around 120 miles south of Louisville, and celebrates his 36th birthday today. A former Kentucky High School student who has won three times on the Tour, Perry designed, built, owns and operates his own course, Country Creek GC, in his home town. He also holds the course record there. "It's a little bit of a different golf

course to Valhalla. I shot 60 on it one time," Perry said.

It is also different getting to play in a major championship in front of his home fans. "They are living and dying on every shot you hit, and so am I. It's pretty nerve-racking. It's neat to finally get a tournament in Kentucky. You saw how they all turned out for the practice rounds. This state has been starved of golf. To win a major in my own backyard would be the icing on the cake. I'd probably just quit; it wouldn't get any better than that."

Cochran agreed with the sentiment. After having to go back to the Qualifying School at the end of last year to regain his US Tour card, the left-hander from Paducah only qualified for the US PGA with a second-place finish two weeks ago. Yesterday he started his second round two strokes behind Perry, after the first-round leader added a level par 72. Perry managed to get to eight holes after 10 holes, but slipped back as the putts refused to drop.

"I was right on the deadline for getting in the tournament, so it is nice to be here," Cochran said. "You try to tell yourself that if you miss it is not much of a big deal; you'll get over it. But once you are here and you see so many friends pulling for you, it makes things a little more special. They don't hit any shots for you, but you put your heart and soul into every shot, and it really helps."



Kenny Perry acknowledges his local support in the US PGA at Valhalla. Photograph: AP

### Lane happy with opt-out

Barry Lane, who pulled out of the US PGA Championship to play in the Hoge Brucke Austrian Open in Litschau, is convinced he made the right decision. Lane shot a six under par 66 yesterday for a two round aggregate of 135 and, though he is four shots behind the present leader, Spain's Juan

Piñero, who leads at 13 under par on 131, he is more than satisfied.

"I dropped out of the US PGA because I wasn't playing well enough," Lane said. "Here, I have been far more relaxed. I played two good rounds, which have given me a great deal of confidence."

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## Agassi loses temper again

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Agassi, criticised for his on-court behaviour at the Olympics, became infuriated when he lost the opening set, walking to his court side chair and smashing his racket on the ground. His actions went unpunished by Richard Krajicek, bowed out.

Sampras, the world No 1, saved a match point in the third set before overcoming the Australian Mark Woodford 6-7, 7-5, 7-6. After also losing a first-set tie-break, Agassi, the world No 7, took control of his match against a qualifier and fellow American Alex O'Brien to win 6-7, 6-3, 6-0.

Krajicek, the seventh seed, fell 7-6, 6-2 to the 10th-seeded Thomas Enqvist of Sweden, the Dutchman enduring prob-

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Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina, 7-6, 6-1, to move into the quarter-finals of the Canadian Open in Montreal. The No 2 seed, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain, received treatment for a strained forearm muscle when leading 3-2 in the first set of her match against the South African, Amanda Coetzer. Sanchez Vicario won 7-5, 6-1.

Amy Frazier of the US, the No 13 seed, surprised by beating the No 8 seed, Myrle Pierce of France, 6-3, 6-3, and the sixth-seeded Magdalena Maleeva of Bulgaria won 6-3, 3-2 over Jennifer Capriati, who had to retire with a back strain.

After trailing 3-5 in the first set, Sabatini rallied to a 4-2 lead in the tie-break before going down. The second set, and the match, then fell quickly to Seles.

## Lennon imagines more glory

### Sailing

STUART ALEXANDER reports from Cowes

Mike Lennon was yesterday halfway to a fully paid trip to Key West, Florida, in winning the seven-race series for Melges 24s at Cowes Week. The national champion counted four firsts, two seconds and a third to take him to Barcelona in October for the deciding Gold Cup series, where he must beat Italy's Giorgio Zucchi, the winner of the first qualifier in Kiel, Germany.

The American-designed sportsboats have grabbed attention here because there is more than just the Cowes Week glory as a reward for winning. Lennon is relieved not to have

to sail today, when another strong wind is forecast. "This year I was a lot more tense than last year. The class is increasingly attractive to top sailors, including Olympic medalists, but the win here also puts the psychologically in a good position to defend the national championship at Brixham in a couple of weeks."

He expects Barcelona to be equally tough in the race to represent Europe against the Americans in January.

The committee failed to note down the sportsboat finish, and also having a little difficulty finding the right course was Ludde Ingvall's Nicorette - "a slight clerical error", the navigator said. They set on Mike Slade's Longboat, pouring dirty air down on her and forcing her back to third as the Russians

scored their first maxi win. Johnny Caulcutt's Matixep finished second.

A fourth placing was enough to give Nicorette the medal prize for the week overall, but the Class One decider will be between two Bashford-Hovison 41s. Glyn Williams made it two in a row yesterday as his Wolf, steered by Matt Humphries, pipped by 39 seconds Jocelyn Waller's Silk 2, steered by Mark Healey, with Gordon Maguire calling the shots.

Humphries praised the navigator Julian Salter for keeping them out of trouble as Silk 2 and Nigel Brannell's Hawk "both went around off Beaulieu." It was a very tactical race and we sailed well," said Humphries, the skipper of Dolphin 4, Youth in the 1993-94 Whitbread.

## British boats benefit from brinkmanship

### Rowing

British brinkmanship kept supporters on the edge of their seats at the World Championships in Motherwell yesterday, as three crews squeezed through the semi-finals while two more failed to qualify for tomorrow's finals.

The coxed four seemed set to give challenge Romania over the first 500m, only to drop away then lose out to France just after midway. They eased down with the line in sight to take the third qualification place.

The lightweight quadruple sculls fell behind at the start and won through to the final from another third-place finish, but only after a massive struggle with the American boat.

The closest call of the day came from the lightweight single sculler, Susan Applebaum, who plans to retire after her second championships. Applebaum fell behind when she missed her second stroke at the start and at 800m was lying fourth. Only a final sprint over the final 200 metres brought her through to take third, and cost Poland from qualification with the line in sight.

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